



March 29, 2023

Chair Xiong and Committee Members ~

Better Futures is a social enterprise organization working with men who have come directly from the corrections system, helping them to change the life path that they are on. On average, our participants have 3+ felonies and over 12 years of incarceration and have a history of chronic homelessness and unemployment.

We want to thank the Chair and the Workforce Development Committee for the appropriation in HF2233. These funds will assist us in our work to continue to train the participants in our program and help them get to a place where they are working, providing child support, having a place they can call home, and developing skills that can make them employable - and keep them employed.

Under our program, our participants receive 13 different certifications for the skills they learn and the work they do during their time spent with Better Futures. The majority of these jobs involve recycling, deconstruction, or other waste removal skills. Our program is proud of the fact that much of the work we do is focused on reducing the waste stream from appliances, construction, and demolition material.

Our data shows that those who participate in our program have a recidivism rate of 5%. When compared to men with similar experiences and backgrounds that have a 65% recidivism rate, we are very proud of our work and our participants. We will use these funds to continue this work - and hopefully expand the program - so that we can better serve even more men throughout the region.

Thank you again for including Better Futures Minnesota in the Workforce Development Committee appropriations this session.

PJ Hubbard

Executive Director