



Council on American-Islamic Relations **Minnesota Chapter**
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Mission Statement:

Enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

March 16, 2021

Rep. Mohamud Noor, Chair
Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Sen. Kari Dziedzic
Minnesota State Senate

Mr. Travis Reese
Committee Administrator
Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: CAIR-MINNESOTA Support for [HF2019](#) - Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program (NIGP)

Dear Chair Noor, Senator Dziedzic, and Mr. Reese:

I am Patti Walsh, Development Director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Minnesota Chapter. As your constituent, I am writing to support HF2019 which is being heard in the Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee on Wednesday, March 17th. This bill would appropriate funding to Propel Nonprofits for the purpose of regranteeing to small nonprofit organizations serving historically underserved communities. As nonprofits we have struggled with the impact of COVID-19. Our communities need us more than ever as we seek to recover from the devastating and disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on BIPOC communities.

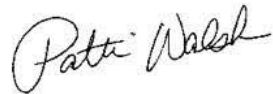
My organization benefited from a grant from Propel Nonprofits in 2019. This funding has helped us build the infrastructure and program capacity to serve our community. This investment was especially valuable to us as we adapted our organization and programs to respond to the demands brought about by the public health crisis of COVID-19.

The funding helped us to fulfill our vision of making Minnesota a more equitable and welcoming place for all Minnesota Muslims. The Propel NIGP grant enabled us to serve our constituents and helped us to react to the disturbing reports we have received of discrimination, school bullying, hate crimes and acts of violence against immigrants, leading the impacted community to internalization of Islamophobia which has led to further traumatization. The funding helped us to hire outreach coordinators who enabled affected communities to understand how Islamophobia can impact their health and through developing and fostering close relationships with faith leaders and members of the community. Additionally, with this support, we have been able to work within our established deep ties with each of these communities and have shared best management policies developed with 35 CAIR chapters across the nation.

Beyond the funding, Propel provided us additional technical assistance which has helped us strengthen our capacity. Without the NIGP we would have a challenging time accessing this kind of funding despite the important services that we are providing for our community.

For the above reasons, I ask that you support HF2019. Investment in the nonprofit sector is important because we provide essential services in our communities and partner with the public and private sector. I would be happy to share more about our story and our important and critical work. You may contact me at pwalsh@cair.com. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patti Walsh".

Patti Walsh
Development Director