

HERITAGE ORGANIZATION OF ROMANIANS IN MINNESOTA
319 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street, Saint Paul MN 55102
<https://hora-mn.org>



June 23, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature:

On behalf of the Heritage Organization of Romanians in Minnesota (HORA), I am writing to express our strong endorsement of the proposal to establish a Council on Central and Eastern European Affairs in the State of Minnesota. This initiative represents a critical opportunity to recognize, support, and elevate the contributions of our diverse communities from Central and Eastern Europe, including the Romanian American community, which has played a historic and ongoing role in enriching Minnesota's cultural landscape.

Romanian immigration to Minnesota began in the early 1900s, when families, driven by economic hardship and a desire for a better life, settled primarily in St. Paul and South St. Paul. Following periods of geopolitical upheaval—including World War II and the spread of communism—Romanian immigration waned but resumed significantly after the fall of communism in the late 1980s. Today, Minnesota is home to a vibrant, multigenerational Romanian American population whose social, cultural, and economic contributions continue to strengthen our state.

The mission of HORA, a nonprofit cultural organization, is to enrich Minnesota's diverse image through the preservation, promotion, and sharing of the valuable cultural heritage of the Romanian American community and its extensive history in our state. Our goals align with the spirit of the proposed Council, as we:

- Serve as an informational resource on Romanian heritage, culture, history, and community engagement;
- Organize cultural events that promote Romanian traditions and arts;
- Document and preserve the immigration stories of Romanian Minnesotans through oral history projects;
- Celebrate Romanian Americans who have made significant contributions to our state and nation;
- Collaborate with local and international organizations to build cultural bridges.

We believe that the creation of a Council on Central and Eastern European Affairs will provide a vital platform for our communities to contribute meaningfully to Minnesota's civic life, enhance intercultural understanding, and ensure equitable representation in state affairs. It will also serve as a catalyst for fostering economic, educational, and cultural exchanges that benefit all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the value of Minnesota's diverse heritage.

Sincerely, *Dana Voller*

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