



**JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL**
MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS

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March 22, 2021

Chair Carlos Mariani
Minnesota State Capitol

Re: Support for HF 1691

Dear Chair Mariani and Members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC), please accept this letter of support in favor of HF 1691.

As an active member of the Communities Combatting Hate coalition, the JCRC is committed to ensuring that Minnesota is safe for all Minnesotans, without exception. Every Minnesotan must be protected from hate, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, national origin, immigration status, ethnicity, or disability.

This bill, which is the result of months of consensus building by the Communities Combatting Hate coalition and takes into consideration feedback from the Department of Human Rights and the POST Board, builds upon an earlier version which passed through the Public Safety and Judiciary committees in the last legislative session.

In the wake of the ongoing surge of anti-Asian violence and racism, now more than ever, HF 1691 is needed to strengthen Minnesota's hate crime laws and provide resources for the victims of hate and their communities.

Thank you for considering our perspective and your service.

Sincerely,

Ethan Roberts, J.D.
JCRC Director of Government Affairs