



June 12, 2020

Dear Honorable Chair Mariani and Members of the Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform Committee,

On May 25, 2020, we witnessed the murder of George Floyd in the hands of four individuals sworn to protect and serve him. The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) continues to grieve with and for the Floyd family and stands in solidarity with the communities affected by the riots in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

MCLA writes to express deep support for initiatives, led by Chairs Mariani and Moran, that not only hold law enforcement agencies and officers accountable, but also serve as the beginning of a restoration in faith and trust in a system that has not worked for black and brown communities through history.

The public engagement through protests and calls for justice for Mr. Floyd that have spread across the country and even the globe, speaks to the righteous anger, fear, and frustration of Black communities. Additionally, the solidarity demonstrated by diversity in ages and races demonstrates the need and urgency around significant reforms in policing and the criminal justice system.

Within the entire bill package, MCLA believes there are critical policy proposals that are steps in the right direction to usher in healing. Said essential proposals include modifications to the standards of use of force, the prohibition of warrior training conducted by law enforcement agencies, and the establishment of a Police-Community Relations Council.

Now is the time to bring justice for Mr. Floyd and countless members of black and brown communities who have experienced the ramifications of an unjust system. Thank you for your leadership and doing what is right for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Rosa Tock | Executive Director

Samantha Diaz | Legislative and Policy Director