

March 21, 2021

Honorable Chair Liebling and Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs has an important role as a state agency to advise and inform elected officials about our constituent communities and their needs. Over the past several years, our agency has focused on addressing persistent health disparities that affect Latino communities.

Lack of access to health insurance and affordable health care, underlying chronic diseases, and high participation in essential occupations are just some of the factors behind the disproportionate rate of infections and deaths for Latinos during the last year due to COVID-19.

Based on our work and community feedback, I write today in support of H.F. 2113 that will ensure an equitable vaccine distribution among communities of color, especially immigrants who despite new challenges and harsh realities, have continued to contribute to the economic vitality of the state during these unprecedented times. H.F. 2113 has many merits, including: implementing actions and programs to overcome disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates; an education and outreach campaign; community assistance; interpreting services; and a mobile vaccination program, all of which are key pillars that together successfully and intentionally target disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your leadership in supporting this vitally important bill to get the vaccine into the arms of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



Rosa Tock | Executive Director