



Monday, May 1, 2023

Chair Hodan Hassan and Chair Bobby Joe Champion
Jobs and Labor Conference Committee

Dear Chair Hassan and Chair Champion,

We are writing in support of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Jobs and Labor Omnibus bills. The allocated funds for PFund Foundation and Quorum to provide grants and training to LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs and small business owners will help close the disparity gap and drive economic development, create jobs, and build stronger communities.

We also support the inclusion of LGBTQ+ communities in the small business partnership program eligibility language found in the House version. Our LGBTQ+ small business owners here in Minnesota continue to struggle to find capital, employees, and the education and support necessary to start and scale their businesses. Financial equity is crucial in moving from surviving to thriving.

The direct appropriation to PFund Foundation and Quorum and the inclusion of LGBTQ+ communities in the small business competitive grants program invest in the infrastructure of LGBTQ+-owned businesses. From small business grants to wrap-around education and technical assistance, these omnibus bills are a good start to moving the economic needle. The ripple effects of these investments are limitless. Stronger individuals. Stronger main streets. Stronger families. Though we've made great strides in Minnesota, for too many, being LGBTQ+ is the biggest detriment to their business.

We must keep the thousands of Minnesota's LGBTQ business owners who grow local economies and create jobs in mind when shaping legislation that creates equal opportunities for everyone. Thank you for your work and partnership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Waggoner
Quorum, Executive Director

Aaron Zimmerman
PFund Foundation, Executive Director