



March 17, 2024

Representative  
Kelly Moller  
Chair  
Public Safety Finance and Policy  
509 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative  
Paul Novotny  
Ranking Minority Leader  
Public Safety Finance and Policy  
301 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) fully supports H.F.4417-Rep. Kozlowski, a bill that will establish a Task Force on Preventing Violence Against Latina Women. We stand behind Esperanza United's ask to adopt legislation focused on violence prevention and to investigate the high incidence of violence against Latina women, including LGBTQ Minnesotans in our communities, and fund its critical work.

The Council believes that investing in this task force will not only reduce the gender-based violence that unequally afflicts Latina/e women and their families, but it will also represent a positive return in investments to the state's economy by avoiding costly expenses of survivors and their families related to treatment, productivity loss in the workplace, and time spent accessing the criminal justice system as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For these reasons, MCLA strongly supports the adoption of H.F. 4417 and urges this committee to also support this important legislation. It will help ensure that all Minnesotans are free of gender-based violence.

Sincerely,

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