



March 17, 2021

Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Young Women's Cabinet of Minnesota, we respectfully urge the committee to support HF389 Women of Color Opportunity Act.

Led by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, the Young Women's Cabinet, is a dynamic group of 32 young women and youth leaders (ages 16-24) from across Minnesota dedicated to racial and gender equity. In partnership with the Governor's Office, the Young Women's Cabinet is charged with centering the leadership and solutions of young women of color to improve equity and opportunity for young women in Minnesota. This initiative is the first-of-its-kind in the nation aimed at improving equity and opportunity for and with young women.

Together, with young women in the lead, we're building a pipeline to future prosperity for all. In 2017, the Women's Foundation published the YWI MN *Blueprint for Action*, a young-women led, community-informed plan of 20 recommendations to achieve equity in outcomes and ensure access to equal opportunities and safe, prosperous lives. Recommendations from the *Blueprint* made visible the importance of financial stability and prosperity as essential for young women in Minnesota to thrive.

The Women of Color Opportunity Act would provide economic opportunities that would allow women across Minnesota to make the financial decisions that empower ourselves and our communities. As young women, many of us have had to choose between obtaining an education and maintaining financial stability. However, with your support, this bill would equip us with the resources to pursue our goals while maintaining our financial well-being.

We thank you for your time and consideration and hope you will vote in support of HF389 .

Sincerely,

Women's Foundation of Minnesota
Young Women's Cabinet