



March 19, 2024

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

Representative  
Sandra Feist  
Committee Vice Chair  
409 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members:

Thank you for the very important work you do on behalf of your constituents and the State of Minnesota.

We are interested in meeting with you to discuss creating a task force on preventing violence against Latina women this year. At the meeting, we will introduce you to the work of Esperanza United, a nonprofit organization that mobilizes Latinas and Latin@ communities to end gender-based violence. For more than 40 years, we have offered critical services to survivors and their families including emergency shelter and prevention work in Minnesota.

This year, Esperanza United is asking for support for legislation to investigate the high incidence of violence against Latina women and fund its prevention. Senator Alice Mann and Representative Alicia Kozlowski are authoring bill SF4258/HF4417 to create the task force and we are asking for your support.

Gender-based violence is deadly in Minnesota. According to the [2022 Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota report](#), at least 21 Minnesotans were killed by a current or former partner in 2019 alone. As a state, we need to invest in stopping this violence and part of that is better understanding how it affects [the fastest-growing minority in Minnesota](#). Survivors from traditionally marginalized communities deserve access to and rely on culturally specific



community-based organizations to provide violence prevention and intervention services that meet their unique needs. We have attached a document with a brief overview and more statistics about the alarming problem we face in our state. Please review this information and let us know if you have any questions or need further details.

Creating the task force will help us understand the root causes of violence impacting Latina women and the LGBT Latine community, raise awareness about the problem, and support better coordination of state-wide responses.

We urge you to support this bill.

With appreciation,

Patricia Tototzintle  
President & Chief Executive Officer