



# Minnesota House of Representatives

4/19/16

The Honorable Kurt Daudt  
Speaker of the House  
463 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt,

We write to you today to discuss concerns we have about the House GOP's lack of proposed investment to address racial economic disparities in our state. As you may know, between 2013 and 2014, the poverty rate for Black Minnesotans rose from 30.5 percent to 34.7 percent. During the same year, the median income for Black Minnesotans fell by 14 percent just between 2013 and 2014. These statistics stretch across communities of color and American Indians all over Minnesota. Our state will never eliminate these disparities without a serious commitment to economic investment by the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives. It is time to stop talking and start investing.

Governor Mark Dayton has proposed a \$100 million plan to combat racial economic disparities. The Minnesota Senate soon followed suit with a proposed \$90 million investment in economic development. However, when it came time for the House Majority to announce their economic priorities, in a year of a \$900 million surplus, they failed to allocate funds specifically for racial economic disparities. It is unfortunate that the House Majority is ignoring a crisis that is facing our state. Governor Dayton, Majority Leader Bakk, Minority Leader Thissen, along with the undersigned members are approaching this issue with the seriousness it deserves. Our concern is that the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives has not committed to any monetary investment that would establish economic security for families and begin to eliminate racial economic disparities.

It is time that we come together to acknowledge that racial economic disparities in our state is an emergency. Today we write to formally request that you set a target of at least \$50 million explicitly to address racial economic disparities as a first step. As session comes to a close, starting to invest in eliminating these disparities should be a priority for all legislators. We urge you and your caucus to take immediate action in correcting this oversight before the end of the week. This is a crisis facing our state that demands action before we leave the Capitol on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

Sincerely,



Rena Moran



Carlos Mariani



Peggy Flanagan



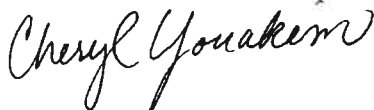
Dave Pinto



Jennifer Schultz



Erin Murphy



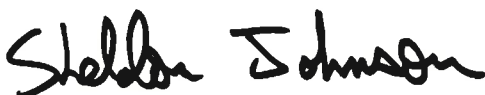
Cheryl Youakim



Jack Considine



Karen Clark



Sheldon Johnson



Jim Davnie



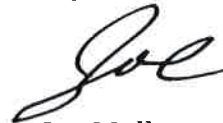
Paul Thissen




Susan Allen



Raymond Dehn



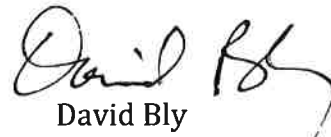
Joe Mullery



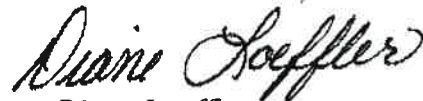
John Persell



Tim Mahoney



David Bly



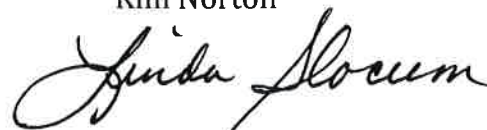
Diane Loeffler



Peter Fischer



Kim Norton



Linda Slocum



Frank Hornstein



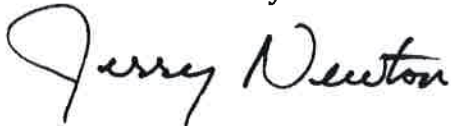
Tina Lieblich



Jean Wagenius



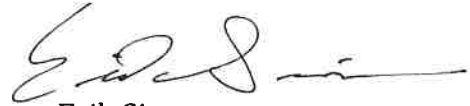
Connie Bernardy



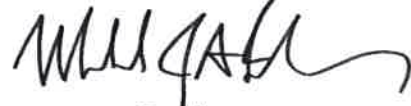
Jerry Newton



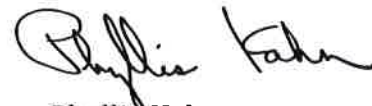
Mike Nelson



Erik Simonson



Mike Freiberg



Phyllis Kahn