

March 29, 2022

Chair Eric Pratt, Jobs and Economic Growth Committee
Minnesota Senate Building Room 3219
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155
Tricia.elite@senate.mn

Dear Chair Pratt and Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Committee members,

On Wednesday, your committee is hearing the Governors' budget proposal, which includes a Nonprofit Relief Fund. I ask that you go beyond the Governor's recommendation of \$50 million and support Senator Nelson's bill for a \$200 million Nonprofit Relief Fund (SF3593).

This legislation will provide critical support for the nonprofit sector and the youth, families and individuals we all serve. The past two years have been a roller coaster ride for many nonprofits that experienced unpredictable funding as a result of the pandemic – at the same time as the demand for services overwhelmingly increased.

Our partner nonprofits play an essential role in addressing the basic needs of the youth and families in our programs. What we hear from families is that behavioral health challenges are increasing, including social anxiety, suicidal thoughts, eating disorders and substance abuse. Families who were already struggling are faced with highly inflated costs for food and gas, having to make difficult choices with limited dollars. The housing shortage continues to be a challenge for many.

The Nonprofit Relief Fund will be critical to help many nonprofits get back on stable ground financially, so that they can in turn provide expanded services to those who need it. Please support SF3593 and the \$200 million Nonprofit Relief Fund.

Sincerely,



Pat Sukhum
Chief Executive Officer

