



**Telugu Association of MN (TEAM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. TEAM's Tax Id: 90-0089250**

March 19, 2023

To Capitol Funding Committee Chair

In recent years, SEWA-AIFW has conducted various health screening camps, mental health counseling, and COVID-19 relief food drives. The SEWA-AIFW's Cultural Service Center project will help advance overall operation and accessibility to support the wider community.

The initiative allows SEWA-AIFW to acquire, renovate, and equip the SEWA-AIFW Cultural Service Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota will create a safe space for the community in Minnesota, but it will also increase SEWA's capacity to assist, train, and provide overall support to the community is in need. TEAM is looking forward to the success of this project to continue to provide SEWA-AIFW to advance the organization's mission and vision. Our Regional Organization have directly benefited during Covid time and got vaccinated. Our women have used the Domestic violence 24/crisis line Sewa-Aifw has in operation.

TEAM appreciates that SEWA-AIFW provides free and bilingual health screenings, SNAP outreach, Meals-on-Wheels, mental health counseling, youth sports and leadership programs, and support to survivors of sexual or domestic violence. In recent years SEWA has expanded services and has consistently increased the number of people served yearly. By creating the SEWA-AIFW Cultural Service Center, SEWA can continue to grow, meeting the needs of our South Asian communities. In a year when the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to lay bare Minnesota's existing racial disparities, opportunities centering Minnesota's communities of color are more critical than ever. Long-term investments in community capacity, such as those made through this bill, will provide a strong foundation to community members to grow and thrive.

Thanks,

Sreedevi

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