March 27, 2023

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund
Health and Human Services Committee, Chair
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 2107
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Senate Bill SF18
        Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program

Dear Senator Wiklund:

The NAACP Minnesota/ Dakokas Area State Conference asks that you support SF18 which addresses the health and wellness of victims of historical trauma. Historical trauma based upon the violent death of a family member, assault, false accusations and wrongful convictions have a profound impact on the victim's mental, emotional and physical health. Untreated the trauma could lead to suicides, strokes, heart attacks or other serious consequences. It is commendable that Minnesota is one of the first states to address the historical trauma faced by the victims, their families and heirs.

The NAACP was founded in 1908 due to the black violence, especially lynchings which was sadly commonplace. In the 1930's the National Headquarters of the NAACP would hang a flag with the words "A man was lynched yesterday." In 1955, Emmett Till a 14 year old child was beaten, tortured and murdered by a gang of white supremist who dumped his body into the Tallahatchie River. The federal government is only now acknowledging the historical fact of widespread lynching whose memory continues to haunt Black communities. After decades of inaction, the federal government finally passed legislation that criminalize lynching as the shameful instrument of terror used to intimidate and oppress African Americans.

I am writing this letter in support of the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program Senate Bill SF18 which supports the health and wellness of victims of historical trauma. Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

Sincerely,

William C. Jordan, Jr.
NAACP President
Minnesota/ Dakotas Area State Conference

Cc: Senator Bobby Champion
      Rep. Ruth Richardson