

Feb 22, 2023

To Senate President Champion, Vice Chair Mohamed and members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee:

The Business Resource Collective (BRC) is a coalition of more than 20 cultural and place-based community organizations in the Twin Cities and statewide focused on centering the needs and growth of Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and people of color owned (BIPOC) businesses.

The BRC is guided by our direct connection to BIPOC small businesses and entrepreneurs. Our coalition advocates for increased financial resources, technical support and policy changes at the state and local levels to create a healthy business ecosystem that invests in the specific needs and accelerates the growth of BIPOC businesses across Minnesota.

The BRC coalition is in full support of the Small Business Partnership Funding (SF 1720). This bill, \$25 million in continual base funding, including a 10% allowance for administrative costs, will have direct impact for our BIPOC small businesses, micro-businesses, sole-proprietors, home-based businesses, and creative businesses. Technical assistance is of the utmost importance for BIPOC businesses - culturally centered technical assistance provides the foundation for successful BIPOC small businesses, a critical step in establishing a stronger BIPOC economy. We ask you to fight to ensure these priority investments are reflected in the final bill to the Governor. Thank you for your leadership.

The BRC and our members are here to support you to get these investments to the finish line and on the Governor's desk for signature. Please let us know how we can further assist in that regard. You can reach us via Shruthi Kamisetty at shruthi@thealliancetc.org or (c) 612-568-6593.

Sincerely,

Business Resource Collective

Cc: Governor Tim Walz
Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan
Commissioner Steve Grove
Speaker Melissa Hortman

House Economic Development Policy and Finance Committee
Senator Heather Gustafson
Senator Fong Hawj
Senator Karin Housley
Senator Carla J. Nelson
Senator Eric R. Pratt

Senator Aric Putnam