



May 1, 2024

Chair Kari Dziedzic
Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3113
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dziedzic –

The Minnesota Business Coalition for Racial Equity (MBCRE) is comprised of more than 30 large corporations that have come together to build a more just and prosperous state with and for Black Minnesotans. We work to leverage the power and resources of the business community to eradicate inequity for the sake of economic impact and the well-being of Black Minnesotans. We support the innovation and creativity represented in SF 4570 for multiple reasons: social work plays a critical role in connecting communities to the resources they need to thrive, and we believe in the power of a diverse workforce.

According to the MN Dept of Health, about 90% of social workers identify as White, suggesting there is significant opportunity to improve the diversity of the field. To do so, we must evaluate the barriers that may prevent qualified social worker candidates from licensure. Data shows that the Association of Social Work Boards passage rate for test takers of color lags that of White test takers. Expanding the existing non-exam route for those with the appropriate experience and completed coursework will allow more social workers of color into the profession and will help address the workforce shortage that Minnesota is currently experiencing.

Diverse representation in the workforce creates stronger understanding and empathy of the communities an organization serves, and diversity has been proven to positively impact productivity and employee engagement and is a tool to attract high quality talent. We support this bill for its effort to infuse greater equity into recruiting and retaining the workforce that our communities need to thrive.

We would like to thank Chair Wiklund and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for their work on SF 4570 and urge you to continue supporting the amendments to the provisional licensure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tiffani Daniels' in a cursive script.

Tiffani Daniels
Managing Director
Minnesota Business Coalition for Racial Equity



Minnesota Business Coalition for Racial Equity Member Companies

3M
Allianz Life
Allina Health
Andersen Corporation
Apogee Enterprises, Inc.
Arctic Wolf
Best Buy
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN
Bremer Bank
Carlson Companies
Carlson School of Management
Children's Minnesota
CHS Inc.
Element Fleet Management
Fairview Health Services
General Mills
Great Clips, Inc.

Land O'Lakes Inc.
McKnight Foundation
Minnesota Timberwolves/Lynx
The Opus Group
Piper Sandler
Post Consumer Brands
Red Wing Shoe Company
Scoular
Target
Thrivent
The Toro Company
Travelers
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
UnitedHealth Group
U.S. Bank
Winnebago Industries
Xcel Energy