

March 7, 2024

Chair Melissa Wiklund
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
1100 Minnesota Senate Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (the Council) submits this letter in support of Senate File 4204, offered by Senator Mitchell, to allow the Ombudsperson or their designee access to the social service information system as necessary for the discharge of their duties.

The Council is charged by the Legislature with the statutory duty of advocating on behalf of Minnesota's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities, acting as the liaison between state government and Minnesota's API communities, and serving as an advisory body to the Legislature and the Governor. It is in this capacity that we express our support for Senate File 4204.

The Council is familiar of the importance of access to data in its own work when serving the more than 45 API communities of distinct linguistic, ethnic, geographic and national backgrounds that fall under our constituency. This is no less true for the Ombudsperson that serve our communities, and others, as well. Through our cooperative work, the Council recognizes data access as a priority issue for the Ombudsperson for Asian Pacific Families as it seeks to provide equitable and transparent services to Minnesotan families.

We thank the Committee for its consideration of Senate File 4204, and urge its support.

Sincerely,



Andrew Morris
Public Affairs and Legislative Liaison Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans