

To: Health and Human Services Committee

Date: 03/25/2024

ATTN: Chair Hoffman

**Subject: Culturally responsive supports and resources related to well-being and long-term services and supports grant establishment and appropriation**

Good evening, Chair Hoffman, Senator Abler, and members of the committee. My name is Victor Obisakin. I am the Director of Culture & Community Engagement and the legislative liaison for Wellness In The Woods. I just wanted to come here today and say that I fully support S.F 4984 and its House companion H.F 4534.

We have all been talking about the one Minnesota Plan. I believe this bill supports that. I've been in many committees, and support groups, talking about DEI, and how to implement that in our community. They barely talk about the issues that are truly affecting our community. The health disparities, systemic racism, and addressing the gaps in our system. Preventative care is often overlooked. When you add culturally competent programs and preventative care education, you are moving in the right direction.

Thank you for not working on a one-size-fits-all program. One size does not fit all when it comes to mental health and health care.

Thank you for not forgetting the elderly. This is a great project. I know there is a lot more work to be done but this is a great step. Addressing gaps in the healthcare system and addressing mental health in the African immigrant communities is very important, especially with the elderly. This project would truly help.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, Senator Abler, and members of the committee, thank you for this.

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