

Chef Jamal HashiCulinary Director and Instructor150 26th Ave SE #618Minneapolis, Minnesota,

April 2, 2024

Dear Members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee,

As a Culinary Director and Instructor deeply embedded in the fabric of Minnesota's culinary scene, I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Culinary Workforce Development Bill (S.F. 5181), a legislative effort that seeks crucial funding for the Healthy Roots Institute (HRI). This bill is vital for the continued success and expansion of HRI's transformative work in our community, particularly through the VoCul program.

The importance of this bill extends far beyond the confines of a kitchen. It is about empowering individuals with essential skills for a thriving culinary career, fostering economic resilience, and knitting tighter bonds of social cohesion within our community. As someone who has directly observed and contributed to the vibrant culinary landscape of Minnesota, I can attest to the transformative potential of initiatives like HRI and VoCul. These programs not only mold talented chefs but also sow the seeds of community empowerment and inclusivity.

My connection to HRI and VoCul is both personal and professional. Having worked alongside emerging chefs and culinary professionals, I have witnessed first-hand the powerful impact of comprehensive culinary training. This bill promises to amplify that impact, reaching more individuals and thereby enriching our community's cultural and economic fabric.

I strongly urge your support for the Culinary Workforce Development Bill (S.F. 5181). By backing this initiative, you are investing in the future of our community—supporting a program that not only cultivates culinary talent but also promotes economic growth and social harmony.

Thank you for considering this crucial support. Together, we can ensure a bright and prosperous future for our community, marked by culinary excellence, economic resilience, and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Chef Jamal Hashi