



**Neighborhood
Development
Center**

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIES FROM WITHIN

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April 2, 2024

Dear Members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee,

As President & CEO with Neighborhood Development Center (NDC), I am writing to express my strong support for the Culinary Workforce Development Bill (S.F. 5181), which seeks crucial funding for the Healthy Roots Institute (HRI). This initiative is pivotal for the continuation and expansion of HRI's impactful work in our community, including the esteemed VoCul program.

As NDC's Board Chair, Lachelle Cunningham has proven to be an industry leader and her involvement in this project will guarantee success. Lachelle also has a long history of training hundreds of entrepreneurs in the food industry for NDC. Her class always has a waiting list as her reputation in community proceeds her.

The significance of this initiative cannot be overstated. It promises not only to enrich individuals with vital skills for the culinary industry but also to sow seeds of economic resilience and social cohesion within our community.

I strongly urge your support for this initiative, confident in its capacity to make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of many and the culinary landscape of our state.

Thank you for considering this support. Together, we can contribute to a vibrant future for our community, marked by prosperity, inclusivity, and culinary excellence. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

Renay Dossman
President & CEO

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