



Department of Social Work
Email socialwork@bethel.edu

Mar 22, 2024
Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Senator Warren Limmer, Ranking Member
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Chair Latz, Vice Chair Verbeten, and Ranking Member Limmer,

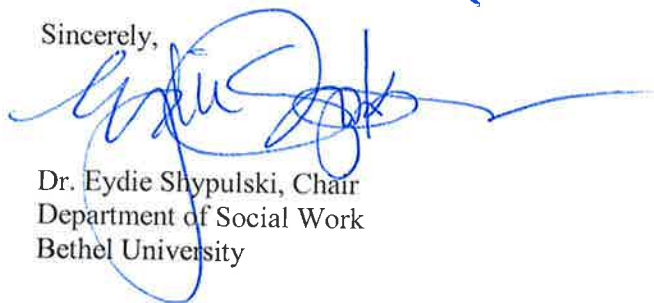
We are writing to thank you for holding a hearing on the **African American Family Preservation Act** on Friday, March 22nd, and to express to you and the committee our support of this Act.

The Bethel Social Work Department (BSW and MSW) has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education to teach and train BSW students since 1981. Competent social work practice as defined by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE, 2022) is social work that is professional and ethical, advancing social justice and human rights, engaging in ADEI, and grounded in research evidence-based practices. The African American Family Preservation Act is aligned with all these professional competencies. The accountability measures of the proposed bill ensure ethical/professional services for all clients and constituents. The bill advances justice as it directly addresses disproportionate outcomes for particular communities, its language is equitable and inclusive, and it is grounded in data that ought to inform policy decisions. Supporting this bill provides an additional critical foundation for effective social work practice and the advancement of justice that is long overdue.

The Department of Social Work at Bethel University stands behind the bill and with the authors. We welcome its introduction into law as a measure to hold the social work profession accountable to its own set of ethics, standards, and values, which unfortunately can't always be assumed.

During this legislative session, we've invited our social work students to participate in the legislative process on behalf of the African American Family Preservation Act. They have attended trainings, bore witness during senate and house committee hearings, and have processed with faculty afterward. We implore you to support this bill's passage through the legislative process. Our department will continue to show up, be present, and enthusiastically advocate for its passing into law!

Sincerely,



Dr. Eydie Shypulski, Chair
Department of Social Work
Bethel University



Nick Zeimet, Director of Field Education
Department of Social Work
Bethel University