

From: **Katy Armendariz** <karmendariz@rwc-mn.com>
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024
Subject: Support for HF912
To: "rep.dave.pinto@house.mn.gov" <rep.dave.pinto@house.mn.gov>
Cc: Company <company@rwc-mn.com>

Dear Representative Pinto,

I am writing to urge your support for HF 912, the African-American Family Preservation Act. As a BIPOC-founded and run organization based in the Twin Cities, our work brings us into close collaboration with Hennepin and Ramsey County child protection services. Through our daily interactions, we witness firsthand the alarming disparities experienced by Black families within the child welfare system.

I am copying all 36 of our employees on this email, as we collectively stand in solidarity and urge your support for this crucial legislation. It is long overdue, and your advocacy for this bill can and should be a significant part of your legacy in Minnesota.

The data unequivocally demonstrates the urgent need for action. As an organization that has also faced challenges, including trolling and retaliation, for advocating on behalf of families, we implore you to take this request seriously.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly anticipate your support for HF 912 and look forward to working together to create a more just and equitable child welfare system for all Minnesota families.

Thank you,

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"Never, EVER, be afraid to make some noise and get in GOOD trouble, NECESSARY trouble." John Lewis

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." — Desmond Tutu