



Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

We are writing on behalf of Jewish Community Action with enthusiastic support for SF4385. In 2023, the legislature updated training standards for peace officers and clarified existing legal protections. The legislature acknowledged that hate and bias exist in civil society as well, and mandated the Department of Human Rights analyze civil rights trends to provide reports on hate and bias every two years with suggested policy solutions to make our communities safer.

While we are incredibly thankful for these new changes, we still have more to do. History has shown us that one law alone doesn't end racism and hate. Instead, disarming hate requires consistent, meaningful person-to-person work within and across our communities.

SF4385 would provide grants to local community-based organizations like ours that are already working to promote intergroup harmony, strengthen community resilience, and develop strategies for education, outreach, and prevention of hate crimes.

We know that state investments into this kind of person-to-person activity works from examples in Germany, New Zealand, and similar programs have recently been implemented in parts of Minnesota, starting with Hennepin county in 2021.

With this bill, **we have an opportunity** to see statewide direct community-based work in Minnesota that inoculates against hate on a **person-to-person level**. By investing in grassroots initiatives and empowering local communities, we create a safer and more inclusive Minnesota for all.

Thank you for your support.

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