

HENNEPIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 9, 2024

Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3105
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Latz and Committee Members,

I am writing you today in support of SF 4258, which would establish a taskforce on preventing violence against Latina women. Gender-based violence is deadly and costly in Minnesota, the data shows that Latina women need a state-wide strategy to prevent gender-based violence and other forms of abuse. Hennepin County has worked to ensure that all its residents are supported through holistic, linguistically, culturally, and identity affirming services, early crisis intervention and more. It was also included in the board's state platform as part of our priorities for our residents.

By establishing a taskforce and providing for careful data collection, we will have a better understanding of the extent of crimes, who is impacted, where, and when, leading to more effective strategies to educate and mitigate future crimes. This bill would certainly help amplify these services in Hennepin County and the entire state.

I urge your support for SF 4258, as we continue to make Minnesota a safe state for all.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando

Irene Fernando, Chair
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