

AMERICAN INDIAN OIC



April 23rd, 2025

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Dr. Joe Hobot, and I serve as the President and CEO of the American Indian OIC (AIOIC). I write to express our support for the Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development bill authored by Chair Champion which I believe will fund critical services to support workers and businesses in Minnesota.

AIOIC is a workforce development and education agency that helps more than 1,200 people each year achieve their education and career goals. Whether attending trainings at our campus in South Minneapolis or online, AIOIC's participants receive the educational foundation, career trainings, and support needed to move into employment with living wages and professional growth. Although we were founded to serve individuals from the Native American community, the majority of our programs are open to anyone who could benefit from our services. AIOIC's programs are branded with the Dakota word "Takoda" – meaning "friend to all" – reflecting our commitment to serving all Minnesotans in need of our services.

I would like to thank Chair Champion for including a direct appropriation to our organization in the omnibus bill. I would also like to thank Senator Mohamed for authoring the provision and Senator Pratt for co-authoring. This appropriation will go directly to workforce development training and support services for our clients and will allow them to gain critical skills needed to get a job and advance their career – all at no cost to them. I would like to express my support for the appropriation to all Minnesota affiliates of OIC's of America which will also be used to support our clients.

With real economic uncertainty on the horizon, the Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development bill is critically important – now more than ever. The proposed bill ensures that the right services and supports are in place to support Minnesota workers, business, and the future state's economy.

Sincerely,

Joe Hobot, Ed. D

Sunkmanitu Tanka Se Tokeya Hiyaye (He Leads Like A Wolf)

Descendant of the Hunkpapa Band of the Oceti Sakowin and Stand Rock Sioux Tribe

President and CEO

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