



January 14, 2025

Honorable State Senator,

On behalf of the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, we would like to thank you for your ongoing service to the state of Minnesota. At the same time, we would like to share with you some exciting Council news and developments. In 2024, MCLA has continued to engage in numerous activities that allowed us to serve the people of Minnesota. As part of those activities, you'll find enclosed our 2024 community engagement report that summarizes the findings of three community visits in places as remote as Moorhead, and as close as Rochester. The document reflects the dreams and aspirations of Latinos living in Greater Minnesota and in the metro area. It also contains recommendations that inform our legislative priorities that are also in this package. In addition, we are sharing with you our recent data compilation regarding the Latino population in Minnesota. This analysis provides insightful comparisons between your own district and state-level demographics.

We are continuing our efforts at organizational effectiveness that are providing direction towards greater operational excellence in our agency. To meet our legislative goals, the Council has a Legislative Committee focused on advising staff on crucial issues. Also, the continuity and experience of current board members allow for a sound board governance to strengthen the agency's internal operations and management to execute our current strategic framework. The objective is to better engage with stakeholders, optimize awareness of Latino concerns during the legislative session, and more effectively advise policy makers on concrete issues that affect the Latino community in Minnesota.

Finally, our 2024 Annual Report will demonstrate the ways in which MCLA has added value to the state of Minnesota. In the past year, the Council has continued its research on legislative issues and policies, implementing models to engage with the community, and serving as a bridge between government and our constituents. You will see that the Council has made strides in working with both the Legislature, state agencies, and the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor to inform policy and budgeting decisions that benefit Latinos, and ultimately all Minnesotans.

In 2025, we will continue to focus on the Council's strategic efforts in the Latino community and at the state Legislature. As the Council celebrates its 47th anniversary this year, we are hopeful that we are continuously improving on our mandate to represent *la voz Latina -the Latino voice-*, which is young, promising, and fast-growing statewide. We look forward to working with you at the Capitol as a partner for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Ivette Izea-Martínez  
Council's Chair

Rosa Tock  
Executive Director