



Letter of Support for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Bill SF2031

April 1, 2025

To: Senator John Hoffman

Chair, Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3401
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Hoffman,

On behalf of Equitable Development Action (EDA), I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed bill that appropriates \$700,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$700,000 in fiscal year 2027 to Restoration for All, Inc. This critical funding will enhance culturally relevant mental health and suicide prevention services for Minnesota's African immigrant and refugee communities, as well as support the mental and physical wellness of elderly populations and underrepresented youths in Minnesota.

As an organization committed to fostering equity and economic inclusion, we recognize the urgent need for accessible, culturally responsive mental health resources in our communities. Many African immigrants and refugees face unique challenges, including trauma, cultural stigma surrounding mental health, and barriers to accessing care. Similarly, elderly populations and youths from underrepresented backgrounds require targeted support to navigate mental health concerns effectively.

This bill will allow Restoration for All, Inc. to:

- Expand mental health and suicide prevention programs tailored to African immigrant and refugee communities.
- Provide substance use disorder support services that address cultural barriers to treatment.





- Develop wellness initiatives for elderly populations, ensuring they receive the mental and physical health support they need.
- Collaborate with other community based organizations in Minnesota to access mental health resources and work together for community wellness and mental health advocacy.

The anticipated impact of this investment includes improved mental health outcomes, reduced suicide rates, and greater access to culturally competent care for historically underserved communities. By funding these initiatives, the state of Minnesota is making a crucial commitment to addressing disparities in mental health services and fostering stronger, healthier communities.

We strongly urge your support for this appropriation.

Sincerely,

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