



March 30, 2025

Senator John Hoffman, Chairman
Senate Human Services Committee
Minnesota State Senate

Dear Chairman Hoffman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Ghands Inc., I am writing in strong support of Senate File 2031, introduced by Restoration for All Inc. (REFA), which seeks to provide critical funding to enhance culturally relevant mental health services, substance use disorder programs, and suicide prevention initiatives tailored to Minnesota's African immigrant and refugee communities.

Minnesota's diverse populations, particularly African immigrant and refugee communities, face unique mental health and wellness challenges. According to recent data, mental health concerns and suicide rates among adolescents and young adults from these communities have significantly increased, emphasizing the urgent need for culturally competent mental health interventions and community-based suicide prevention programs. Restoration for All Inc.'s dedicated approach to addressing these disparities aligns with the proven model of culturally responsive care necessary for effective outreach and support.

Restoration for All Inc. has demonstrated extensive capacity and expertise in community health programming, successfully engaging community members, faith-based leaders, and local stakeholders to enhance awareness, reduce stigma, and foster environments conducive to mental wellness and resilience. The proposed funding outlined in SF 2031, totaling \$700,000 in fiscal years 2026 and 2027, is pivotal for sustaining and expanding these impactful programs.

We strongly believe that approving SF 2031 will significantly contribute to reducing the barriers African immigrant and refugee populations face, bridging critical gaps in service accessibility, and ultimately promoting healthier and more resilient communities throughout Minnesota.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter. We urge your support for Senate File 2031 and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes this initiative will undoubtedly yield.

Sincerely,

Henry Momanyi

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Founder and CEO
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