

Chairman Senator John Hoffman
Senate Human Services Committee Members
Minnesota State Senate
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Mn 55155

Chair Hoffman and Committee Members,

My name is Victor Obisakin, and I'm the Legislative Director for Restoration For All. I wanted to thank you, Chair Hoffman, and the Committee, for giving us this space to be able to testify. I am writing in support of SF 2031.

My mental Health journey began almost at the same time I immigrated here to the United States. I lived in rural Minnesota for about twenty years.

Moving to the metro area, it is true that there are more services here. The most important part of my journey was that I was able to meet other members in the community who looked like me, spoke like me, and are also trying to figure out this mental health journey just like me.

Meeting Restoration For All's Executive Director and founder, Dr. Tolulope Ola, was a life changer.

I've been working for her for over six months, and the changes she and her partners and collaborators have made in the community are staggering. Listening to an elderly woman from Cameroun say how much Dr. Ola's programs have helped her and that she is now encouraging others to come join the program was heartwarming. A program in which she collaborates with Dr. Njoyi and Dr. Oni. Then, hearing our youths trying to figure out how to navigate their lives in this system with their identity was an eye-opener.

Dr. Ola's programs, along with her partners, have no doubt been life-changing. It is an absolute pleasure to see her and her team work together for the good of the community.

Suicide has been one of the main leading causes of death in our community. The proposed funding would help REFA's ability to implement programs that would help with suicide prevention strategies and interventions.

Chair Hoffman and committee members, this is a beautiful thing we are doing today. Please help us and help our community by supporting SF 2031.

Thank you