

March 31, 2025

Senator Bobby Joe Champion, President
Minnesota State Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Champion and Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

We are writing to express our full and enthusiastic support for SF 2948, which allocates \$600,000 in workforce development funding to OneCommunity Alliance (OCA). This investment is an important step forward in building a skilled and resilient workforce in Central Minnesota, and we urge the Legislature to approve this appropriation.

OneCommunity Alliance is a trusted and mission-driven nonprofit dedicated to enhancing workplace culture and expanding economic opportunity. Through its Employment and Training Programs, OCA will provide hands-on workforce training, career readiness workshops, job placement services, and ongoing mentorship to job seekers in the region. This initiative will focus on unemployed and underemployed individuals, recent graduates, and those transitioning into new career fields. The targeted industries—manufacturing, food production, agriculture, and healthcare—are all facing labor shortages and will greatly benefit from this pipeline of well-prepared talent.

What sets OneCommunity Alliance apart is not only the quality of its programming, but the exceptional leadership behind it. Hudda Ibrahim, President and Co-Founder of OCA, brings over a decade of experience in workforce development, education, and cultural competence. Her academic credentials—including a Doctorate in Education from St. Mary's University of Minnesota and a Master's in Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame—underscore her expertise. Her vision and strategic leadership have already created lasting change through past work and service across multiple community organizations. She is a trusted community member and strives to improve the wellbeing of all community members. She works hard for this region and her impact is felt by many.

OCA is also led by Abdi Mahad, an educator, author, and advocate for multilingual education. Mahad has contributed to Minnesota's first Somali language curriculum and has been a strong mentor in education. His community-based approach to economic empowerment makes him an asset to this work. Additionally, Ibrahim and Mahad are respected and connected leaders in the community and bring together a coalition of other leaders, businesses, and non-profit organizations. They are collaborators and are making a positive difference!

In addition to employment services, OCA's broader programming around supporting homeownership has made measurable impacts on the social and economic wellbeing of families in Central Minnesota.

An investment in OneCommunity Alliance is an investment in a stronger Minnesota. Thank you for championing this bill and we strongly encourage its passage by the Legislature.

Sincerely,



Shelly Bauerly Kopel, Partner
on behalf of Granite Partners