

April 11, 2025

Chair Latz and Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Judiciary and Public Safety appropriations omnibus (SF 1417). Since civil rights laws are foundational to the state of Minnesota, the Department of Human Rights appreciates the committee's support in fully funding the agency's base budget for the biennium.

However, MDHR is concerned that the operating adjustment included in SF 1417 does not reflect the operating adjustment outlined in the Governor and Lt. Governor's budget and is insufficient to meet agency obligations. While we recognize that budget targets created funding challenges, the adjustment proposed in the Governor's budget is intended to address the rising employer-paid healthcare contributions, salary and compensation-related costs, IT services, and other direct operating costs – all of which are essential to fully supporting the team at MDHR.

MDHR is a people-powered agency, and it is the talented team within the department that brings the Minnesota Human Rights Act to life every day. MDHR is navigating a substantial increase in its workload, and it is important that the agency can continue to ensure that every Minnesotan is protected by, and benefits from, our state civil rights laws, as required by statute.

Please feel free to contact me or Nico Bauer (nico.bauer@state.mn.us), MDHR's Government Relations Director, with any questions.

Thank you for all your and your staff's hard work on this budget and for allowing MDHR the opportunity to underscore the critical need for its full operating adjustment. We look forward to continuing these important conversations.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Lucero
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Rights