April 27, 2026
RE: Support for SF 4535
Submitted by: Cities for Safe and Stable Communities

Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Cities for Safe and Stable Communities is a nonpartisan coalition of 26 Minnesota cities united to restore economic stability, public trust, and effective local governance following Operation Metro Surge. Our member cities represent more than 850,000 residents, including an estimated 150,000 immigrant and foreign-born community members who have been among the most acutely affected by the federal operation. We write in support of SF 4535 and its investments in recovery for Minnesota businesses harmed by federal enforcement activity.

The economic damage is substantial and well-documented. Across our coalition, hundreds of businesses have reported revenue losses of 50 to 100 percent. Beauty and personal care services, grocery stores, and restaurants—the backbone of our neighborhoods and local tax base—have been especially hard hit. Owners describe this period as "worse than COVID." Foot traffic at restaurants, markets, and salons vanished. Businesses fell $15,000 to $45,000 behind in rent, and owners maxed out credit cards trying to keep up with commercial mortgages.

The broader toll is extensive. Coalition cities have incurred over $400,000 in direct costs from police overtime, staff responses, and communications. Emergency grant support has totaled $1.4 million, with an additional $180,000 requested and still pending.

Our coalition supports stabilization tools that help affected business owners get back on their feet. We are encouraged that Governor Walz has also prioritized small business support in his 2026 supplemental budget. There is broad recognition that Minnesota's small businesses need help now, and we urge this committee to act with urgency.

Our small businesses cannot wait. We respectfully and strongly urge this committee to advance meaningful recovery investments this session.

Sincerely,

Cities for Safe and Stable Communities

Our coalition includes: Bloomington, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Columbia Heights, Crystal, Eden Prairie, Edina, Falcon Heights, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Minnetonka, Mounds View, New Brighton, New Hope, Orono, Plymouth, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Roseville, Saint Anthony Village, Shoreview, St. Louis Park, Vadnais Heights