



May 19th, 2018

**Governor Mark Dayton**  
**Office of Governor Mark Dayton**  
**75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55155**

**Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka**  
**Minnesota Senate**  
**95 University Avenue W.**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55155**

**Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt**  
**Minnesota House of Representatives**  
**100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55155**

Attention Governor Dayton, Majority Leader Gazelka and Speaker Daudt,

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage is charged with advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting members of the African Heritage Community. In accordance with Statute 15.0145 the Council formally offers the attached statement requesting the Governor veto HF0390, SF0676 or any bill that similarly increases penalties for protest on highways, at the airport or for disrupting traffic.

Council staff met with Rep. Zerwas chief author of HF0390 and expressed our concerns. As the bill has evolved through the process, the issue continues to be divisive. But more importantly, rather than discussing the reasons members of the African Heritage community have taken to shutting down highways, the Legislature has spent its time investigating ways to punish people for expressing their First Amendment right.

The Council receives calls with concerns on a regular basis in regards to this issue. In order to represent the priorities of Minnesota's African Heritage community, we must stand in opposition to any form of this bill that reaches the Governor. See our attached statement and please don't hesitate to contact the Council with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Justin Terrell  
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Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage  
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