



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

March 25, 2025

Via E-Mail Delivery

Representative Joe McDonald, Chair
House Legacy Finance
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Samantha Vang, Chair
House Legacy Finance
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs McDonald and Vang:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for legislative bills introduced by Representative Jim Nash, seeking to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War/Secret War in Laos/Southeast Asian Conflict (HF 1440) and to recognize the cultural and historical contributions of Cambodian, Lao, and Vietnamese Minnesotans (HF 1441).

The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) through its Veterans program has recognized the contributions of Veterans, the impact on their loved ones, the impact on refugees, and issues surrounding why and when the United States goes to war. As we come upon the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we may have one of the last meaningful opportunities to capture the stories of those involved and impacted in the conflict. We would be honored as an organization to be involved in the projects identified within the proposed legislation and preserving these important stories.

Since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, Minnesota has become home to a significant number of refugees who fought alongside United States military personnel. These refugees, their families, and now their children have contributed to our communities in numerous ways and have enriched Minnesota with their culture and traditions. Minnesota benefits by understanding the stories of those who fought in the Southeast Asian conflict and recognizing their contributions.

The Minnesota Humanities Center supports the above legislative bills. Thank you for your consideration of HF 1440 and HF 1441.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lindsey
CEO
Minnesota Humanities Center

C: Senator Foug Hawj, Chair, Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee