

For Immediate Release  
3:27 pm Sunday March 26, 2023

## **In around 24 hours 125+ Diverse Minnesotans Call for ALANA Budget Target in Omnibus Jobs Bill at \$500 Million. Call for Direct Appropriations as well as Department Funding**

***The community is invited to support by signing the petition.***

In about 24 hours since it was launched, a petition launched by the ALANA Brain Trust and partners, received strong support from a diverse set of Minnesotans from community leaders concerned about youth in Saint Paul to a high-tech group of entrepreneurs in Bloomington.

The ALANA (African Latino Asian and Native American) Brain Trust is a multiethnic collaboration working to build shared sustainable prosperity in Minnesota. Members were concerned that the budget targets released by Minnesota leaders were insufficient to address the stark racial economic disparities in Minnesota. Racial disparities in Minnesota had an estimated \$287 billion economic loss in the ALANA communities in terms of lifetime earnings, education and skills gaps, housing, business and income gaps. The ALANA Brain Trust as well as the House Select Committee on Racial Justice had recommended a billion-dollar investment in the wealth building capital, resources and capacity building of the ALANA communities. The petition builds on the historic legal intervention during the redistricting process calling for an “inclusive multiracial democracy” and adequate representation of the \$1.4 trillion ALANA economy in Minnesota.

It has been widely reported at the Capitol that the legislature was moving away from direct appropriations to department managed grant processes.

The Petition supported 4 recommendations to Governor Tim Walz, Speaker Melissa Hortman and Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic:

*We are extremely disappointed that during this historic moment when Minnesota has an opportunity to address the stark racial economic disparities in the state, the budget target allocates only \$490 million for all Minnesotans. We specifically requested you to allocate a billion dollars for the wealth building infrastructure of the ALANA (African Latino Asian and Native American) communities and to establish long term investment funds for ALANA flexible capital, ALANA workforce development and ALANA real estate development.*

*We urgently request you to incorporate the following into the Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development Bill:*

*\$500 million for ALANA wealth building capital, workforce development, real estate development, youth.*

*A combination of direct appropriation as well as funding through DEED's competitive grant programs.*

*Establishment and funding of long-term investment funds for ALANA flexible capital, workforce development and real estate development.*

*A focus on established ALANA outcomes and accountability for those receiving state funding.*

The ALANA Brain Trust and partners look to the POCI Caucus at the legislature to convey this recommendation from the diverse communities of Minnesota to legislative leaders and the governor.

For more information, please contact Dr. Bruce Corrie at [alana@alanabraintrust.org](mailto:alana@alanabraintrust.org), or Brett Buckner at OneMN.org.

The petition and list of supporters can be found at this link:  
<https://empoweringstrategies.org/urgentpetitionjobsbill/>

