



## **HB4566 House Amendment 1 – SUPPORT Diversity Task Force**

Mr. Chairman and committee members,

I am Holly Ambuehl, Director of Policy and Government Affairs for Forefront. Forefront is Illinois' statewide membership alliance for the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. The sector we represent is comprised of over 50,000 operating nonprofit organizations that employ almost 600,000 people, constituting 11% of our state's economy.

Forefront, and our stakeholders, are collectively working to advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. Forefront itself is a Black and Brown led organization and our strategic plan prioritizes racial equity as a core value across the institution. This includes our Equitable Access and Capacity Initiative (EACI), which has an emphasis on supporting organizations led by and serving People of Color and the statewide Racial Equity Collective (REC), which provide financial and technical support to nonprofit leaders that are working to advance racial equity in their communities all over the state. Through EACI and REC, Forefront has a network of leaders around the state that are actively engaged in DEI.

**Forefront supports HB4566 House Amendment 1, which ensures that the nonprofit sector is represented on the Diversity Task Force.**

In the introduced version, Sec 8.13 (b)(6) called for representation for “women-owned, person with disability-owned, minority-owned, or LGBTQ+-owned business organizations or state vendors.” Nonprofits do not have owners, and therefore nonprofits would not be eligible to serve on the task force if House Amendment 1 is not adopted.

Failing to include voices from the nonprofit sector on this Task Force would be a missed opportunity when our sector is boldly leading in this work and has many positive contributions and lessons learned to share; we are grateful that the Secretary of State's office supported the inclusion of nonprofits on the Diversity Task Force in House Amendment 1.

I am available to answer any questions.

Holly Ambuehl  
Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Forefront

**CONTACT** Holly Ambuehl at [hambuehl@myforefront.org](mailto:hambuehl@myforefront.org) or 480.321.7466 (cell)