



July 19, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall Room 205
200 E Wells St
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Honorable Council Members:

Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC) urges the Common Council to adopt Council File Number 210547, Mayor Tom Barrett's first allocation of American Rescue Plan funding. The Stronger Summer Plan provides over \$93 million in needed funding for a range of critical programs as a first phase in the Mayor's Recovery and Resilience Plan. These resources will help Milwaukee continue a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through the summer and into fall.

The Stronger Summer proposal is a strong first step toward a more resilient city. The plan is grounded in racial equity and inclusion, and takes intentional first steps to address the unequal impact of COVID-19 on Milwaukee residents.

The Stronger Summer package makes investments in affordable housing and homeownership that will benefit Milwaukee families this year. It provides funding to help Milwaukee's small businesses and diverse entrepreneurs weather what we all hope are the final days of the pandemic. HWCC was able to play a critical role in helping many small businesses from underserved communities in Milwaukee receive the technical assistance and financial support they needed to survive the negative impact of COVID-19. The Stronger Summer package would allow funding to chambers such as HWCC to further serve Milwaukee's underserved and underinvested small business community in ways that may not otherwise be available to them. The plan expands resources to households facing eviction, and funds important efforts to continue building high-quality early childhood education for families. It makes investments to increase employment and wages for Milwaukee workers through training and career pathways.

Your support of the Stronger Summer plan will help Milwaukee emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger and more equitable. We urge you again to adopt the plan when it is before the Council this month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maysee Y. Herr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "H".

Maysee Y. Herr, Ph.D.
Executive Director