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Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Lieutenant Governor Flanagan and members of the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security,

On behalf of our more than 600 registered lobbyist members, the Minnesota Governmental Relations Council (MGRC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Advisory Committee as it considers recommendations to enhance Capitol safety and security.

In the wake of the tragic events of June 14 and, more recently, the unauthorized access of the Capitol building, MGRC is encouraged that the ACCAS, in partnership with legislative leaders and state agencies, is proactively exploring strategies to improve security for the Capitol and its surrounding area. Like legislators, staff, and other daily stakeholders, MGRC as an organization rents space as tenants within the Capitol building year-round and our members are present in the building throughout the legislative session and during the interim and play a vital role in the advocacy and lawmaking process. Ensuring the safety and security of all who work in and visit the Capitol is essential to preserving a functional, open, and democratic institution.

As the ACCAS considers potential changes, we respectfully urge the Committee and its partners to strike an appropriate balance between implementing meaningful, effective security measures and preserving the ability of registered lobbyists to maintain secure, efficient access to the building. Registered lobbyists are integral participants in the legislative process, and any new security protocols should safeguard both public safety and the transparency, accessibility, and engagement that are hallmarks of our democracy.

MGRC stands ready to be a constructive partner in this important work. We welcome the opportunity to provide input on proposed changes, share the perspectives of our members, and collaborate on solutions that protect the Capitol while maintaining its accessibility. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our views, and for your ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all who serve and engage in Minnesota's democratic process.

Sincerely,
Amy Walstien

President
Minnesota Governmental Relations Council



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Cc: Members of the Advisory Committee on Capitol Security
Chief Justice Natalie Hudson
Senator Warren Limmer
Senator Bonnie Westlin
Representative Kelly Moller
Representative Jim Nash