

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Pam J. Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Bondi,

We write to sound the alarm regarding Generation Hope MN, a Minneapolis-based organization operating as a tax-exempt entity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Based on publicly available records and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filings, Generation Hope MN exhibits a troubling pattern of red flags around its legitimacy, operational capacity, and financial stewardship.

As senators committed to eliminating wasteful spending and ensuring rigorous oversight of taxpayer dollars, we are alarmed that this organization was ever positioned to receive over \$1 million in congressionally directed Department of Justice (DOJ) funding despite multiple indicators that should have rendered it ineligible for any federal assistance or grants.

### *Organization Background*

Generation Hope MN was established in 2019 and describes itself as a Somali-led organization focused on addiction recovery and substance use disorder services in Minneapolis' East African community.<sup>1</sup>

### *Questionable Operational Footprint*

IRS documents, specifically IRS Form 1023-EZ, which is used to apply for recognition as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, showed the three directors of Generation Hope MN listed the same address for a five-bedroom home in Minneapolis as their primary residence.<sup>2</sup>

Generation Hope MN's website lists two Minneapolis addresses, including a location on Cedar Avenue.<sup>3</sup> This same address is publicly associated with Sagal Restaurant and Coffee, a Somali restaurant. While the Sagal restaurant's owner claims Generation Hope MN occupies office space above the restaurant, this shared address with a commercial establishment, combined with the absence of dedicated program facilities or visible service infrastructure, raises substantial doubts about the organization's

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<sup>1</sup> *Contact Us*, GENERATION HOPE MN (2026), <https://generationhopemn.org/contact-us/>.

<sup>2</sup> *FORM 1023-EZ for GENERATION HOPE*, 501C3LOOKUP.ORG (2026), <https://501c3lookup.org/form1023.cfm?lookup=c94c72ccb1b3e89ab19030cbed0a4dca>.

<sup>3</sup> GENERATION HOPE MN, *supra* note 1.

independent operations and scale—particularly for an entity purporting to deliver intensive therapy and rehabilitation services.<sup>4</sup>

#### *Financial Stewardship and Minimal Operations*

Generation Hope MN does not publicly share its required IRS Form 990 on its website, making the filing accessible only through direct searches of the IRS database.<sup>5</sup> Generation Hope MN’s most recent Form 990 for tax year 2023<sup>6</sup> reflects a financial profile inconsistent with a functioning nonprofit capable of responsibly managing taxpayer dollars:

- (1) reported only \$51,353 in revenue, including government fees and contracts;
- (2) spent \$119,966 on professional fees and payments to independent contractors, consuming the vast majority of reported resources;
- (3) lone Executive Director reportedly working 30 hours per week, with three additional employees working four or fewer hours per week;
- (4) reported an additional \$43,951 in “other expenses,” including \$12,286 for travel—an unusual cost for an organization whose mission is focused on serving Minneapolis’ East African community;
- (5) ended the year in the red, operating at a loss of -\$4,186; and
- (6) closed 2023 with just \$1,616 in reported cash and investments.

This spending profile suggests minimal direct services, opaque financial reporting, and heavy reliance on contractor payments—conditions that should trigger immediate scrutiny, not federal taxpayer dollars.

#### *Parallels to Known Minnesota Fraud Patterns*

These financial characteristics closely resemble tactics alleged in ongoing federal investigations into Minnesota nonprofit fraud, including the Feeding Our Future case, in which federal prosecutors allege kickbacks were routed through inflated “consulting” or contractor fees to shell entities.<sup>7</sup>

While no identical misconduct is alleged here, Generation Hope MN’s spending profile fits a fraud-risk pattern that has already cost taxpayers billions across Minnesota programs.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Emma Colton, *Left-Wing Dems Steer \$1M to Addiction Group Operating Above Minneapolis Somali Restaurant Amid Fraud Fallout*, FOX NEWS (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/left-wing-dems-steer-1m-addiction-group-operating-above-minneapolis-somali-restaurant-amid-fraud-fallout>.

<sup>5</sup> Form 990-EZ, *Generation Hope MN (EIN 86-2994159)*, Tax Year 2023, INTERNAL REVENUE SERV., [https://apps.irs.gov/pub/epostcard/cor/862994159\\_202312\\_990EZ\\_2024052222412936.pdf](https://apps.irs.gov/pub/epostcard/cor/862994159_202312_990EZ_2024052222412936.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Dozens Charged in \$250 Million COVID Fraud Scheme*, FED. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Sept. 21, 2022), <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/dozens-charged-in-250-million-covid-fraud-scheme-092122>.

<sup>8</sup> *Billions Paid Out by Medicaid in Minnesota May Be Fraudulent, U.S. Attorney Says*, CBS NEWS (DEC. 18, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/billions-paid-out-by-medicaid-in-minnesota-may-be-fraudulent-us-attorney/>.

## *Concerning Connections*

It is long-established precedent that when IRC 501(c)(3) organizations have “planned activities that violate laws” or engage in activities designed “to induce the commission of a crime or if the accomplishment of the purpose is otherwise against public policy,” the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has grounds to revoke their tax-exempt status.<sup>9</sup> In fact, the IRS has set the precedent that “organizations have been held not to qualify for IRC 501(c)(3) on grounds that the activities of the organizations in question contravened public policy even though the organizations did not violate any federal statutes or state or local laws.”<sup>10</sup>

In 2015, federal authorities arrested 20-year-old Abdirizak Mohamed Warsame—the older brother of Generation Hope MN Founder Abdirahman Warsame—and nine others preparing to travel to Syria with the explicit goal of joining the terrorist organization ISIS.<sup>11</sup>

Warsame, who immigrated to the United States from Somalia as an infant, served as a leader in the group of young men conspiring to join ISIS.<sup>12</sup> FBI investigators discovered that Warsame not only encouraged his friends to join ISIS but also provided financial assistance for one member's passport. He even attempted to leave for Syria himself in the spring of 2014, but his expedited passport application was denied. Prior to his arrest, Warsame repeatedly lied to State Department authorities to obtain a passport, which he ultimately succeeded in securing. He was also in contact with Douglas MacArthur McCain, a known ISIS member who was killed in 2014.

Warsame was charged with providing material support to terrorists in Iraq and Syria. In 2016, he accepted a plea deal to cooperate with FBI investigators and received a 30-month prison sentence—one of the shortest among roughly 100 convictions during that period. Some of his co-defendants received sentences exceeding 30 years.<sup>13</sup> During sentencing, Judge Michael Davis told Warsame, "I'm not convinced you're still not a jihadist."<sup>14</sup>

Some members of the Somali community dismissed these actions as the mistakes of misguided youth, but this characterization is inaccurate; all involved were adults. These actions were not youthful indiscretions. Rather, they plotted to join and support a terrorist organization explicitly committed to killing Americans and undermining Western values.

It is concerning that Generation Hope MN Founder Abdirahman Warsame publicly refers to his older brother as a “father figure” and has repeatedly downplayed and excused his brother’s actions, arrest, and conviction. He has even gone so far as to blame the justice system itself, claiming that the United

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<sup>9</sup> INTERNAL REVENUE SERV., *Social Welfare Organizations*, <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopicj85.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Minnesota Man Accused of Trying to Aid ISIS*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 9, 2015), <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/10/us/minnesota-man-accused-of-trying-to-aid-isis.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Brit McCandless, *Somali Americans: Searching for Identity, Finding ISIS*, 60 MINUTES (CBS NEWS) (July 2, 2017), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-somali-americans-searching-for-identity-finding-isis/>.

<sup>13</sup> Hannah Allam, “*They Wish Me Dead*”: *Convict in ISIS Case Faces Backlash for Helping Feds*, NPR (Nov. 20, 2019), <https://www.npr.org/2019/11/20/781111733/they-wish-me-dead-convict-in-isis-case-faces-backlash-for-helping-feds>.

<sup>14</sup> McCandless, *supra* note 12.

States never accepted them for who they are.<sup>15</sup> Should someone with such associations be considered worthy of taxpayer funding? We do not know Abdirizak Warsame's current views on ISIS or its goals, nor how his influence may shape his brother's actions and aspirations, but it is undeniable that expressing admiration for someone who sought to commit atrocities against the United States raises most serious concerns.

#### *Federal Funding Eligibility*

Under 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and 2867, as implemented by the DOJ, the Department may initiate suspension or debarment proceedings, with government-wide effect, where there is evidence of profound irresponsibility, lack of business integrity, or other causes warranting exclusion from federal funding.<sup>16</sup>

Taxpayers demand a federal funding system that proactively excludes high-risk entities before dollars are obligated—not after fraud occurs. The facts outlined above, including questionable operations and a high-risk financial profile, raise serious questions about Generation Hope MN's responsibility and suitability for current or future federal grants, cooperative agreements, or other forms of federal funding across agencies. Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Department immediately review these concerns and determine whether to:

- (1) initiate suspension proceedings to protect ongoing federal interests pending full investigation; and/or
- (2) refer relevant matters to other DOJ components for further inquiry.

While we understand the new Assistant Attorney General (AAG) position is still developing, we respectfully request that this matter be referred to and reviewed by the new AAG as soon as practicable. We appreciate your prompt attention to this urgent issue. Thank you for your service in safeguarding the integrity of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,



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Joni K. Ernst

Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



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Mike Lee  
United States Senator

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<sup>15</sup> Abdirahman Warsame, *Overcoming stigma through storytelling* (TEDxMinneapolis) (Oct 14, 2025), <http://youtube.com/watch?v=YYcdcZHN3UE>

<sup>16</sup> DEP'T OF JUSTICE, *Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension*, 72 FED. REG. 11,555 (Mar. 13, 2007), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2007/03/13/E7-4362/department-of-justice-implementation-of-omb-guidance-on-nonprocurement-debarment-and-suspension>