WHEREAS: In 1998, faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate students, with the support of Twin Cities artists, leaders, and activists organized the Asian American Studies Initiative at the University of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: This group, which was committed to educating students and the general public about the history and experiences of Asian Americans, worked together to design an Asian American studies program that was unique to Minnesota and took advantage of our region's resources; and

WHEREAS: Their efforts were rewarded when the Regents of the University of Minnesota voted to establish first the Asian American Studies undergraduate minor in 2003 and the Asian American Studies Program in 2004; and

WHEREAS: According to the most recent U.S. Census, Asian Americans, including longtime residents and newcomers, are the fastest growing racial/minority population in the United States, and Asian Americans now make up about half of the people immigrating to the United States; and

WHEREAS: Asian Americans are crucial to understanding both historical and contemporary formations of American race relations, citizenship, identities, and values.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2018, as:

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 31st day of August.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE