



January 10, 2023

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the Minnesota House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Kari Dziedzic
Majority Leader of the Minnesota Senate
3113 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Aisha Gomez
453 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
2103 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable State Legislators:

The Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the Immigrant Drivers' License legislation, HF 4/SF 27. HF 4/SF 27 will strengthen public safety, improve accessibility, and expand people's freedom to provide for their families. While immigration may be a federal policy issue, it impacts people in communities across Minnesota. HF4/SF 27 is a public safety issue, a fairness issue, a community issue, and an economic issue.

Minnesota's roads are safer when drivers are trained, tested, and licensed. Allowing immigrants to be well trained and tested, prior to obtaining a driver's license, benefits everyone on the road. We all benefit when drivers are knowledgeable about traffic rules and regulations. This is a fact that many states and the District of Columbia have recognized in enacting similar legislation.

People always want to make life better for themselves and their families. Access to a driver's licenses helps build strong, inclusive, economically vibrant communities. Expanding the freedom to drive to immigrants encourages community involvement and creates a sense of belonging.

Driving is a necessity, not a choice for the majority of families. Having a driver's license allows a person to commute to work, especially in the rural areas where there is no public transportation. Having a driver's license gives family the freedom to attend parent teacher conferences and church.

Immigrants are part of Minnesota's communities and economy. Access to drivers' licenses not only helps immigrant workers but also helps the communities in which they already live and work.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is proud to support the passage of HF 4/SF 27. Thank you for your time and please contact us should you have questions.

Sincerely,


Bernie Burnham
President


Brad Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer