

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**  
*One strong united voice for Minnesota workers*

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Honorable Speaker Melissa Hortman:

AFSCME Council 5 and the 43,000 workers we represent strongly support the passage of House File 4, the proposal to provide drivers licenses for all Minnesotans regardless of citizenship status. By allowing approximately 81,000 of our neighbors without documents to take the knowledge and road exams administered by DVS, we will enhance the safety of our roads and lower the rate of uninsured drivers. In other states, this has led to lower insurance premiums and measurable decreases in the rate of hit-and-runs.

We also appreciate that this proposal is funded, with a small delay in implementation to allow DVS to staff up and be prepared for a possible surge in demand for Class D licenses. It is important that all Minnesotans get access to timely road exams so as not to hinder their ability to gain independence as teenagers, hold employment, and complete day to day tasks that contribute to our local economies with no threat of danger to the public on our roadways.

As we approach the end of session, we hope to see an additional appropriation in the transportation omnibus bill to further make headway on the backlog of road exams for all kinds of drivers licenses. To ensure the safety of our roads and to guarantee impartiality, this work must be done by the public sector, and that requires additional investments from the legislature.

No one should have to fear deportation for simply taking their kids to school or going to work. Everyone that has a license and insurance deserves the right to feel safe on our roads, so we are happy to strongly support the passage of House File 4 off the floor today.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Bleyhl".

Julie Bleyhl  
Executive Director  
AFSCME Council 5, AFL-CIO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ethan Vogel".

Ethan Vogel  
Legislative Director  
AFSCME Council 5, AFL-CIO