

January 26, 2023

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

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

RE: Driver's Licenses for All (H.F. 4/S.F. 27)

Dear Senator Mohamed and Representative Gomez:

I write in support of Driver's Licenses for All (H.F. 4/S.F. 27). Hortensia PLLC provides legal services to immigrant entrepreneurs in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. Many of our clients are undocumented and are prevented from applying for a driver's license or governmental identification despite paying sales, payroll, and income taxes, creating jobs, delivering essential services, and building wealth for our community.

As a Lake Street business, Hortensia PLLC is thankful for the support the SBA, DEED, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis provided after the 2020 civil unrest and during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly because financial assistance for entrepreneurs was not conditioned on immigration status. Our undocumented clients were able to access PPP loans and state and local government grants and loans to keep their businesses open, support their families, and continue employing Minnesotan workers. This investment has paid off and we are rebuilding a thriving and diverse economy along Lake Street despite daunting odds.

We now have a similar chance to lower barriers to economic opportunity by not conditioning driver's license eligibility on immigration status. Undocumented workers would increase their income if they could drive legally, roads would be safer, and auto insurance rates would decrease for all of us. More importantly, granting access to government issued identification to fellow Minnesotans acknowledges their contributions to our community. I am thankful for your leadership in support of Driver's Licenses for All.

Respectfully submitted,

Hortensia PLLC



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cc: Benjamin Pettee
Paul Cummings

