



February 03, 2023

The Honorable Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Warren Limmer, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Hospitality Minnesota Support for HF4 – Drivers Licenses for All

Dear Chair Latz, Ranking Minority Member Limmer and Members of the Committee:

Hospitality Minnesota has long supported commonsense approaches to immigration reform and that includes providing workers the opportunity to obtain driving credentials. HF4, Drivers Licenses for All, is an important component of eliminating obstacles for workers to safely and reliably connect with employers. Across the state, Minnesota's Hospitality industry is highly dependent on immigrant workers to staff our restaurants, hotels and resorts.

The pandemic exacerbated Minnesota's declining workforce and the hospitality industry continues to be challenged by a worker shortage by some 17,000 workers, from pre-pandemic levels. In today's tight labor market, the workforce shortage continues to be one of the biggest challenges on the road to recovery for the hospitality industry. As immigrants help fill the worker shortage gap for many hospitality businesses and contribute to all aspects of Minnesota's communities and economy, we believe it is important that all Minnesotans are able to access credentialed driving privileges. When credentialed driving privileges are opened for all, not only can workers get to and from their jobs legally and safely, it also opens opportunity for more workers to help alleviate supply chain and transportation challenges that so many of our businesses face.

To date, 18 states across the country have enacted laws to provide immigrant driving credentials. This is not only the right thing to do, but a public safety issue. The State of Minnesota estimates that as many as 12% of drivers may be uninsured. This change will create the opportunity for everyone to be safer on the road through passing safety tests, and the purchase of auto insurance will greatly benefit all drivers.

We appreciate this positive step forward in helping Minnesotans across Greater Minnesota and the metro area alike. We believe it is vital that every worker has safe and reliable transportation.

We encourage members of the committee to support the passage of HF4. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Liz Rammer, President & CEO
Hospitality Minnesota