

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 17, 2023

Senator Zaynab Mohamed  
2103 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed,

I write to express Hennepin County Board of Commissioners' support for the Driver's Licenses for All Bill (HF 4/SF 27). This legislation is important to all Minnesotans, but of particular significance to Hennepin residents who are not recognized as citizens and their families. As the administrator of our state's largest social safety net and home to employers of regional and national significance, Hennepin County seeks to ensure that all our residents have the supports and opportunities to live full, healthy, and independent lives, can live into their full potential, and become and remain self-sufficient. This legislation will remove barriers to freedom of movement, expand economic mobility and improve the lives of Hennepin County residents.

Minnesotans unable to obtain a driver's license contribute significantly to the prosperity and wellbeing of Minnesota but too often cannot fully participate at their highest levels. They cannot always access quality childcare, healthcare and prescriptions, or primary and secondary education. Those who live outside of public transit lines cannot access food and basic home goods without incurring significant extra costs, and this is worsened during winter months. They cannot access the world-class, year-round recreational amenities in which we take such pride and invest public resources to maintain for them. When they or their families face hardships, they cannot fully access the breadth of human services programs otherwise available to them because secondary or tertiary identification is unavailable.

As we have seen in other states that enacted similar legislation, this bill will improve safety on our roadways by ensuring more residents are certified to drive and obtain vehicle insurance. It will increase the number of drivers on the road that understand and abide by the traffic laws and decrease the number of uninsured drivers in the state.

As the largest political subdivision of the state, we are mandated by statute to ensure residents are healthy, protected and safe, self-reliant, assured due process, and mobile. SF 27 will be a major step in ensuring this is true for our non-citizen residents who currently cannot obtain a driver's license. We fully support this bill.

Thank you for your leadership,



**Irene Fernando, Chair**  
**Hennepin County Board of Commissioners**  
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