

Saint Paul, MN, February 15, 2023

Dear Madame Chair Wiklund and members of the Senate Health committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, I write to express strong support for S.F. 896 (Sen. Mann). This initiative would help and bring relief to many in our immigrant communities to be eligible for MN Care at the same incomes and premium rates as other Minnesotans.

During the Council's listening sessions in the last six years across Minnesota, we heard so many painful stories among Latino communities about barriers for undocumented immigrants in accessing affordable health care, and how these barriers exacerbated other disparities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Access to health insurance, being able to buy in the market, and affordability, are key to address and reduce health disparities.

We want to thank the author of the bill for addressing this issue and making sure that we are building a more equitable health care system that ultimately, from a public health perspective, will reduce costs and benefit every Minnesotan.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosa Tock'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Rosa' being more prominent.

Rosa Tock, Executive Director