



CENTRO DE TRABAJADORES UNIDOS EN LA LUCHA

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March 13, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund,

I write on behalf of Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), in strong support of Senate File 2269/House File 2505, which will provide urgently needed funds to support victims of labor trafficking.

CTUL is a worker-led organization where workers organize, educate and empower each other to fight for a voice in their workplaces and in their communities. Many of our members work in the non-union sector of the construction industry, where they face rampant labor rights violations including wage theft, lack of safety protections, threats and retaliation, and in the most extreme cases, labor trafficking.

Many are immigrant workers and some depend on their employer for housing, leaving them especially vulnerable to exploitation and threats of retaliation. The fear of losing income and housing with few available resources for support is a huge barrier that prevents many workers from coming forward when labor trafficking occurs. Increasing resources and support will help to eliminate those barriers and will ensure that community organizations can provide the health, housing, and economic resources needed to support people through the process of healing and reestablishing their lives.

Everyone should be treated fairly and with dignity and respect on the job. We applaud the efforts we have seen directed at holding both labor and sex traffickers accountable for their crimes. Providing adequate resources to support workers who are taking great risk in speaking out against abusive labor conditions is also an important part of combating these horrific crimes. We urge you to support SF2269/HF2505 to ensure that Minnesota is doing everything possible to protect and support workers in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Payne, Co-Director
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL)