

March 12, 2023

Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Melissa Wiklund,

Support to Fund Comprehensive Services for labor Trafficked Victims in Minnesota

We the undersigned board members of The Enitan Story (TES) seek your support and funding to provide comprehensive services to labor trafficked victims in Minnesota.

TES has been providing direct services to individuals who have experienced domestic violence, sex and labor trafficking since 2013. However, while there are resources available to support individuals who have experienced domestic violence or sex trafficking, it has been very challenging to provide the same level of services to individuals who have experienced labor trafficking. This is largely due to the fact that the state of Minnesota has provided \$0 in form of funding to provide a trauma-informed, victim centered and culturally appropriate services to these individuals.

The only support that TES has relied on to support victims and survivors of human trafficking is the limited funding provided by the MDH through the federal grant from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

As a survivor-led organization, we understand that labor trafficking victims suffer similar trauma like those who have experienced sex trafficking, and we implore your support to approve funding for the SF 2269 bill for comprehensive, trauma-informed, and culturally specific services for victims of labor trafficking or labor exploitation.

Thanking you in anticipation of a favorable support of the bill.

Sincerely,

The Enitan Story Board Members
Chair, Yvette Toko
Secretary, Rita Apaloo
Treasurer, Honorable, Ronny Marty
Member, Reverend Lyndy Zabel