

Columbia Heights Police Department



January 25, 2023

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
Capitol Office
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2103
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Mohamed:

We are writing to urge your support for the Driver's License for All bill (HF 4/SF 27) to allow all residents to obtain a driver's license or Minnesota ID card.

Columbia Heights police officers encounter numerous inexperienced, undocumented drivers regularly. Many of them lack a basic understanding of traffic laws and the justice system in general.

As you are aware, this legislation has the potential to make Minnesota roads safer for everyone. This legislation will require Minnesotans without immigration status to pass a written and driving test in order to obtain a license. California, for example, has seen a decrease in accidents and hit-and-runs because of this type of legislation. The legislation will also require undocumented drivers to purchase auto insurance. In states with laws requiring insurance for undocumented drivers, insurance rates have significantly dropped.

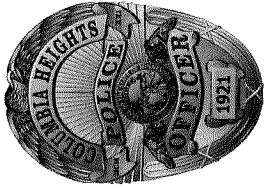
The Driver's License for All legislation will help police in verifying a person's identity, which will increase our ability to build trust and legitimacy in immigrant communities.

Legislation like the Driver's License for All bill is an excellent public safety tool for Minnesota law enforcement. We encourage your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Amada Márquez Simula
Mayor

Lenny Austin
Chief of Police



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