



Metro Transit Police Department

A service of the Metropolitan Council

560 Sixth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411-4398
metrotransit.org/police
612-349-7200



January 26, 2023

Representative Aisha Gomez
Minnesota House of Representatives
453 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for HF4 (Gomez) "Driver's Licenses for All"

Representative Gomez:

As the interim Chief of the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD), I write to express MTPD's support for HF 4. In 1993, the Minnesota Legislature created our department to police the metropolitan region's transit system. MTPD is committed to the personal safety, quality of life, and protection of property for everyone in our transit community.

Providing access to driver's licenses for all Minnesotans, regardless of immigration status, will improve public safety in our region. Expanding access to driver's licenses will increase the number of people who learn the rules of the road and pass driving tests, which will make everyone traveling on Minnesota roads safer. Furthermore, as police officers, we encounter people who are injured or otherwise in a condition where it's difficult for them to communicate their identity to us. This bill would help more people gain access to an identification card, and in turn, could help a police officer who is working to assist them.

Thank you for bringing forward this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick Grates".

Rick Grates
Interim Chief