

Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

We are writing to express our support for HF4/SF27 which would allow Minnesota residents without immigration documentation to apply for and receive a driver's license. We work as a council to uphold our strategic principals of creating a more equitable and safe community. We feel that this legislation would help us to work toward that goal and help residents get to the many locations in our city where they live and work.

We support this legislation for several reasons and hope it will address many of the ongoing issues encountered by residents in our community, including:

- **Safe and legal driving** – Under the proposed legislation, residents without immigration status seeking a driver's license would be required to complete the same testing and training requirements as all other motorists. In addition, they would be required to have insurance on their vehicle, enhancing safety and ensuring they can secure the value of their vehicle. We were excited to see research showing that passage of similar laws in other states has led to a reduction in hit-and-run traffic incidents. We hope to see similar results here if this legislation is passed, making roads safer overall.
- **Access to work, home, school and local businesses** – As a city council we have prioritized connecting St. Louis Park for everyone who visits or lives in our city. We know our thriving local economy depends on the ability of visitors to access our local businesses, where they work or shop. We also are proud to host several regionally attended schools and workplaces. Allowing individuals to get a driver's license regardless of documentation status will ensure they can safely access these community resources. Additionally, we've seen research that shows that passage of this legislation could boost incomes for undocumented residents and open our economy for more people to participate.
- **Community connection** – St. Louis Park is well known as a community of strong neighborhood and family connection where residents feel they are a part of a thriving city. We work to intentionally foster those connections and boost social capital to ensure that residents have people in their lives who they can rely on in times of need. We have seen firsthand how the more people who live and connect in our community, the more we can expect to see this crucial social safety net grow. Opening transportation options for our undocumented community could help them to maintain and build connections in the city.
- **Combating stigma and exclusion** – From our perspective, residents of our city are all the people who live, work or play in the community regardless of immigration status. We work to address barriers and gaps in equitable delivery of government services. Further, our community is home to world-class healthcare facilities, and research has shown that driver's licenses improve access to healthcare.

For these reasons, and many more, we support passage of this legislation. We were excited to see our own Representative Cheryl Youakim as a co-author and will work to communicate our support to our whole delegation.

Sincerely,



Jake Spano  
Mayor



Nadia  
Mohamed



Margaret Rog



Lynette  
Dumalag



Sue Budd



Tim Brausen

St. Louis Park mayor and council members