



SHERIFF DAWANNA S. WITT
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January 11, 2023

Sen. Zaynab Mohamed
Minnesota Senate
Building, Room 2103
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Mohamed,

Thank you for your leadership as Chief Author of SF 27, a bill that would allow our undocumented residents to obtain a traditional driver's license or Minnesota identification card without showing proof of legal residence in the United States but requires attestation of residence in Minnesota. As Sheriff of Hennepin County, my primary concern is public safety. One way to keep people safe is to uphold universal public safety standards. For example, all people driving motor vehicles on Minnesota roads should have a license to drive that vehicle. This is a straightforward public safety standard that our state had in place until 2003. Removing the ban on undocumented immigrants from obtaining licenses will create safer roads for all drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. It is also a measure of community recognition and partnership with law enforcement.

Allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a driver's license will also mitigate issues for law enforcement. In the event of a traffic stop, having access to the identity and past infractions of the individual would greatly reduce the risk and complexity for any law enforcement agent. Additionally, if all drivers can undergo proper education and training, and carry proper insurance, we would expect a commensurate reduction in road accidents and situations where an involved party flees the scene.

As Sheriff, I am also tasked with improving access to and engagement with law enforcement within communities. We need to continue the important work of repairing and improving trust in law enforcement in order to work together for a safer state. This bill is an important step in the right direction.

For those reasons, I am proud to support SF 27 Driver's Licenses for All Bill.

Sincerely,

Dawanna S. Witt
Sheriff of Hennepin County

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