



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

**SAINT PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT
AXEL C. HENRY, CHIEF OF POLICE**

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January 25, 2023

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives
c/o Majority Leader Jamie Long
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

The Saint Paul Police Department protects the peace and maintains public safety through trustworthy service done in partnership with our community. Serving all members of our community with dignity and respect is at the heart of everything we do. The Saint Paul Police Department is committed to working with our fellow community members to reduce crime by building stronger relationships between our officers and our community. House File 4 will directly support these efforts by affording every Minnesotan the opportunity to obtain a driver's license and to engage in our community in a safe and meaningful way.

We want all of our residents, regardless of race, religion, or legal status, to be active and law-abiding members of our community. Unlicensed drivers endanger not only themselves, but all of us who drive, walk, bike, or take transit to carry out our daily activities. This law will help ensure that all individuals who drive are required to learn the rules of the road and become certified to operate a vehicle. Also, since all licensed drivers in Minnesota are required to carry insurance, we can decrease the number of instances of collisions where one or more of the drivers is uninsured.

Additionally, we know there are other important public safety benefits to having licensed drivers. Licensed drivers are less likely to leave the scene of an accident. Community members who are able to confidently identify themselves to officers are more likely to cooperate with criminal investigations. The Saint Paul Police Department supports House File 4 because it will support efforts to continually improve the public safety of our community and our roads. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Axel Henry
CHIEF OF POLICE