



March 11, 2024

Chair Dibble and Committee Members:

My name is Rosa Tock, and I am the Executive Director of the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, a state agency that advises and informs the state legislature and government on issues relevant to our diverse Latine communities.

The Council supports bill S.F.3257 as amended. This bill will allow access to important material to customers whose first language is not English. Through multiple conversations, community surveys, and listening sessions that the Council has conducted over the years, our community has spoken to the need of having materials from government agencies in Spanish. This is a need that we continue seeing across different sectors.

The Council appreciates the work that the Department of Public Safety has implemented in the past years, especially their Multilingual Resource Center, to make information accessible in different languages, including Spanish.

This bill as amended, will also allow residents doing business at deputy registrars' or drivers' license agent locations where non-English speakers reach a threshold of 20%, to have easy access to services and information. The Council seeks to partner with the Department of Public Safety to make recommendations regarding what constitutes a substantial number of non-English speaking people.

The Council believes that with the proper information and communication, this bill will have the effect that more residents will comply with laws and regulations regarding their privilege to drive and maintain a vehicle in the state. This will make our streets and roads safer.

Mr. Chair and Committee members, we respectfully advise you to support this bill.

Thank you.

Rosa Tock  
Executive Director