



March 15, 2024

Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
*Via Electronic Delivery*

**Re: Letter in Support of S.F. 3769**

**Letter of Support for S.F. 3769**

Dear Chair Latz and Members,

Violence Free Minnesota, the coalition to end relationship abuse, and the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault write jointly to express support for S.F. 3769. This bill prohibits discrimination against renters who use Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers ("ITINs") instead of Social Security Numbers ("SSNs"). This policy will increase the safety and economic stability of violence survivors in Minnesota.

Our coalitions represent all survivors of domestic and sexual violence residing in Minnesota, regardless of a person's immigration or residence status. Housing stability and economic flexibility are crucial aspects of safety for all our communities, and the artificial barrier placed between ITIN users and dignified housing increases a person's vulnerability to potential future domestic or sexual violence. Allowing ITINs to be used in rental applications will increase housing accessibility to many survivors and their families.

We are satisfied with previous testimony that ITINs allow for satisfactorily rigorous background checks to keep neighbors within an apartment complex safe. To our knowledge, there is no significant difference in a background or credit check conducted using an ITIN versus one using an SSN. There is no significant difference between an ITIN user and an SSN user other than their residency or immigration status. Discrimination against ITIN users strips these users of dignity and agency based solely on their national origin. Because satisfactory background and credit checks can be completed, any other stated reason for discrimination is, by nature, arbitrary.

Our work is centered on promoting the dignity and agency of everyone in our state. Restoring dignity and agency to a survivor in their interpersonal relationships allows that survivor to participate more fully within their community. Ensuring safe housing for all and removing arbitrary sources of discrimination are two excellent ways to ensure that all residents of our state are considered equal members of a vibrant community.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Lopez  
Executive Director  
Violence Free Minnesota

Pahoua Vang  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault