

February 3, 2021

**RE: HF 321 Certifications for Victims of Crimes**

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and members of the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee:

I, Tania Dominguez Chon, office manager and paralegal, support the proposed bill and respectfully request that members of this committee support efforts to prevent the victimization of Minnesota residents especially in Greater Minnesota.

I have seen firsthand the impact that receiving a U-Certification has had on immigrant victims of crimes and the great effect it has on fostering a good relationship between law enforcement and the victims. These victims are no longer as afraid to report crimes or to cooperate with the police because they feel supported and safe. I had a client that was the victim of sexual assault when they were a minor and they never reported it to the police because they were afraid to speak up due to their undocumented status. Thankfully, he mentioned the incident to their attorney and were encouraged to report the crime to the police and to cooperate. They felt safe to do so because of the incentive to the U-Certification and the police were able to apprehend and convict the perpetrator. This is just one of so many examples where issuing a U-Certification has helped both the victim of the crime, the law enforcement agency, and helped keep their community safer.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,



Tania Dominguez Chon

Sworn and subscribed before me  
this 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2021.

