



May 8, 2020

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE FILE 4611**

Ruby Lee, President of CLUES  
(Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)

Good Afternoon,

I am here on behalf of thousands of Minnesota Latino workers and families that continue to be dramatically impacted by the COVID19 crisis. These families are following shelter-in-place state orders like the rest of us, yet some will not benefit from the financial aid or paid leave provided to most Minnesotans to weather the current economic crisis.

**I am here to urge your support for House File 4611**, which can provide a lifeline for underserved families and individuals who are unprotected and on the verge of becoming homeless or ill.

CLUES, along with other Latino-led nonprofits and community-based groups, has been assisting thousands of people impacted by the COVID19 crisis over the last two months. We continue to see first-hand the financial devastation this health and economic crisis is creating for thousands of Latino families living in metropolitan and Greater Minnesota communities. My staff and I have been working days, nights, and weekends and our capacity is overextended as we answer over 200 daily calls. Hundreds of these calls are from Latino households that have been left behind by eligibility guidelines for state and federal relief. People are seeking immediate financial help for food, shelter, and emergency needs.

We thank Representative Aisha Gomez and Senator Melisa Franzen for carrying this bill and need your help to champion our efforts to support those who are left behind during this pandemic. Many of the people this bill aims to support are low-income and immigrant families who rely on informal, part-time, or gig work and are unable to access state unemployment insurance. The people we serve are experiencing high degrees of stress and despair as rent comes due, utilities must be paid, children are out of school, diapers and basic household goods become an impossible cost burden, and necessary Stay-at-Home requirements continue to keep them out of work.

Your prompt support of HF4611 will offer temporary relief for deserving families and individuals who contribute greatly to Minnesota's economy and who continue to suffer the impact of social and economic inequities, particularly in Greater Minnesota. Please take prompt action to ensure underserved families and individuals can survive the impact of this crisis.

I thank you for your anticipated leadership and support. CLUES stands ready to continue to serve Minnesota families through these difficult times.