

February 2, 2021

RE: HF 321 Certifications for Victims of Crimes

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

I, Kelsey Allen, 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.

One of my clients was the victim of a crime that was highly publicized in newspapers. Despite her cooperation with the police, she has been waiting for nearly a year for a decision on her U Visa Certification because that police department has a policy where they will not sign certifications if the case is pending with the court. Because of this, she falls farther and farther in the line when she ultimately does apply for a U visa. Such delays can cause her to have to wait extra years for a U visa approval in the end, because of the backlog of U cases. If she were the victim of the exact same crime in a different city, she could have received a decision on the Certification a month or two after submitting it.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kelsey Allen