



March 9, 2021

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee:

Minnesota businesses value the contributions of immigrants to our state. Over the past 13 years, in concert with philanthropic organizations, the University of Minnesota and other partners, the Minnesota Chamber has completed studies documenting the positive impact of immigrants on Minnesota's economy through workforce participation, taxes paid, business ownership, home ownership and consumer power.

We support HF 1163 (Winkler) for the following workforce and public safety reasons:

- Minnesota has the 3rd highest labor participation rate in the country. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and even as we begin to recover from its economic implications, employers across all industries have struggled to find available workers. Our demographic challenges have become reality with greater numbers of individuals over the age of 65 than those who are school age. In addition, Minnesota has not benefitted from net domestic migration as other states have. Immigrants are essential to meeting our state's workforce needs.
- Minnesota employers rely on immigrant workers to serve their customers. To do this safely, these workers should complete drivers' license training, testing and licensing requirements, including securing insurance. We believe requiring these drivers to complete these steps to secure a non-compliant license or driving credential will make roads safer for all drivers.

The Minnesota Chamber supports comprehensive federal immigration reform. As we wait for solutions on the federal level, we believe this legislation will help to address state employment and public safety needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Bordelon", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Laura Bordelon
Senior Vice President, Advocacy