

Written Testimony of David Foster-Bolton on HF1163

I have worked in the food service industry for almost 50 years , working with , relying on , and learning from immigrants and refugees, each working hard in a kitchen in an incredibly stressful job. One of the most important and sometimes hardest part of that job is simply getting to work as scheduled. I said simple but it is not. Immigrant and refugee workers carpool ,take buses but cannot get a simple drivers license in Mn (the state took it away in 2003). My friend who has worked in the same kitchen for 15 years was arrested for a tail light being out and not having a driver's license, was put in jail. I have seen immigrant workers who have Been in the states for years making money for restaurants paying taxes, raising families and yet they are treated shamefully. These are our neighbors, yours and mine and passing the "drivers license for all "bill in the senate let alone get a hearing is the least we can do to start treating people, no matter where they came from or how long they have lived in this state, with dignity. While also helping the business's that have hired them keep such great people working . Pass this bill now.

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