



April 12, 2021

Chair Rena Moran
Ways and Means Committee
449 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for the Driver's License for All (HF 1163) in the Transportation Omnibus Bill

Chair Moran and Members,

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage's primary role as a state agency is to inform elected officials about the experiences and needs of African Heritage Minnesotans. We are writing in support of the inclusion of Driver's License for All (HF 1163) in the Transportation Omnibus Bill (HF 1684). This Driver's License for All component is supported by a statewide network of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and organizations.

The Driver's License for All provision will benefit Minnesota in the following ways:

Make our roads and community safer. Safety on the road is a priority for all Minnesotans. Today, Minnesotans are required to pass a driving test and purchase and maintain insurance to drive. This component will hold undocumented immigrants to the same rules and standards, thus potentially creating fewer accidents and more insured drivers on our roads. Allowing undocumented immigrants access to a license, a way to drive legally, and a way to identify themselves to law enforcement would increase trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, leading to greater collaboration and cooperation.

Benefit families and the economy. Reliable, consistent and accessible transportation is key to helping all Minnesotans thrive. Access to driving helps undocumented immigrants maintain employment, get their children to and from school, and go to doctor, events and activities. We are potentially suppressing our economy by not allowing undocumented immigrants the ability to obtain a driver's license in Minnesota. According to a recent study conducted by Minnesota Budget Project, an undocumented immigrant's annual income would increase an estimated \$2,000-6,000 for full-time workers if permitted to obtain a driver's license. And these drivers will in turn contribute to Minnesota's economy when they buy, maintain and insure vehicles.

Please support the Driver's License for All provision in the Transportation Omnibus Bill. Thank you for your leadership on matters of economic equity in our state.

Sincerely,

Linda Sloan
Executive Director
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage