

Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Patty Acomb Chair, Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee Minnesota House of Representatives 593 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Chris Swedzinski Republican Lead, Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee Minnesota House of Representatives 245 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 4155 – Utility Acceptance of ITINs

Dear Chair Acomb, Lead Swedzinkski and Members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee:

Legal Aid writes in support of HF 4155, which would amend Chapter 216B – the Public Utilities Act – to enable an applicant to provide an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) in lieu of a Social Security number on an application for utility service. Legal Aid provides civil legal services to low-income Minnesotans, Minnesotans with disabilities, and elder Minnesotans, statewide, to help them meet their basic needs.

Enactment of this bill would be another building block to support two critical goals: creating a welcoming and nondiscriminatory environment for all to further a fundamental Minnesota value; and helping everyone access essential utility services. We urge passage of HF 4155.

Sincerely,

Ron Elward

Ron Elwood Supervising Attorney

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