

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 22, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling  
Chair, House Health Finance and Policy Committee  
477 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling,

Hennepin County is in strong support of House File 2505, which will provide critical funds to help victims of labor trafficking.

Low-wage, undocumented workers and newly arrived refugees are particularly vulnerable these exploitations, as are youth aging out of foster care. These are our residents most in need of services in order to eliminate the barriers they face that prevent them from breaking the cycle of economic abuse and exploitation, and uplift their voices on their path to healing.

Through the *No Wrong Door Program* Hennepin has shown commitment to its fight against sexual exploitation and trafficking. We have become keenly aware of the prominent crossovers between labor and sex trafficking. There is a strong need for more survivor-informed solutions that will promote positive change and address the root causes of all forms of trafficking, such as poverty, generational trauma, and abuse.

The State of Minnesota has made great strides towards supporting and empowering survivors, but there is more work to be done. Without actively working to directly combat labor trafficking and provide trauma-informed supportive services, we ignore the intersectionality between all forms of trafficking and the chances of re-exploitation increase.

We urge your support for House File 2505 and to commit your support to victims of labor trafficking and exploitation throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,



**Irene Fernando, Chair**  
**Hennepin County Board of Commissioners**

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