

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2019-032  
SUPPORTING HF1500 “DRIVERS LICENSES FOR ALL” LEGISLATION  
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, the Northfield Human Rights Commission held a meeting on March 14, 2019 and passed a motion of support for current “Driving Licenses for All” legislation and recommended the City Council to pass an action of support as well; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Department of Human Rights Commissioner Rebecca Lucero was at the Human Rights Commission meeting on March 14, 2019 and presented information on the bill (HF1500) and also answered questions; and

WHEREAS, if enacted, Minnesota would join a growing list of states that allow their residents to get a license without regard to legal immigration status; and

WHEREAS, until 2003, residents of Minnesota did not have to provide proof of legal residence to get a driver’s license. A rule change under the administration of former Gov. Tim Pawlenty ended that practice; and

WHEREAS, under the bill, those ineligible to vote would be prevented from Election Day voter registration using the license and ID cards. The change would also make no change in an individual’s legal status. The change would only ensure that they can drive a vehicle legally on Minnesota’s roads; and

WHEREAS, the bill has drawn support from a wide swathe of agencies and organizations, including the Department of Public Safety, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and labor and religious groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The City of Northfield hereby officially supports the “Drivers License for All” Legislation that is currently under review as HF1500.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 2nd day of April 2019.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

VOTE:        \_\_\_ POWNELL        \_\_\_ GRABAU        \_\_\_ DELONG        \_\_\_ NAKASIAN  
              \_\_\_ NESS        \_\_\_ PETERSON WHITE        \_\_\_ ZWEIFEL

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA  
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ATTEST

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

VOTE:      Y POWNELL      Y GRABAU      Y DELONG      Y NAKASIAN  
                 Y NESS      A PETERSON WHITE      Y ZWEIFEL



OFFICE OF THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

MICHAEL O. FREEMAN COUNTY ATTORNEY

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April 1, 2019

Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
459 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul MN 55155

RE: Senate File 1500

Dear Majority Leader Winkler:

I write to express my support for House File 1500. The safety of our public roads relies on the training, testing, licensing, and insuring of those who operate vehicles on them. Today, many people who live and work in our communities are barred from participation in these longstanding safety measures. We would all be better off if every driver were able to obtain a license, acquire insurance, and operate a vehicle on our roads with the sanction of the State. I therefore support this bill and the commonsense changes it would make.

The current prohibition on licensing of undocumented persons also poses other problems for enforcing our laws. Today, an undocumented person talking with a peace officer, whether at the scene of an accident, a traffic stop, or elsewhere, often has no government identification document to show that officer. This bill would help to solve that problem and would similarly aid other law enforcement efforts and criminal prosecutions by giving us more and better information about the people who live in our communities.

I have supported previous versions of this legislation, and subsequent studies in other states that have passed similar laws show improved public safety. Jurisdictions that allow for government identification for undocumented individuals show a reduction of uninsured drivers by almost 25%. Other studies have shown a significant reduction in the number of hit-and-run incidents and fewer fatal car collisions.

This bill is therefore good for public safety, good for the rule of law, and good for those seeking greater participation in our society and economy. I support it and would ask others to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael O. Freeman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL O. FREEMAN  
Hennepin County Attorney



Police Department – Medaria Arradondo, Chief of Police  
350 S. Fifth St. - Room 130  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
TEL 612.673.3559  
[www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov)

March 28, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

The Minneapolis Police Department protects the peace and maintains public safety through a procedural justice lens. Serving all members of our community with dignity and respect is at the heart of everything we do. The Minneapolis Police Department is committed to engaging our community and building trusting and collaborative relationships to provide for the safety and well-being of our city. House File 1500 will directly support these efforts by affording every Minnesotan the opportunity to obtain a driver's license and to engage in our community in a safe and meaningful way.

We want all of our residents, regardless of race, religion, or legal status, to be active and law-abiding members of our community. Unlicensed drivers endanger not only themselves, but all of us who drive, walk, bike, or take transit to carry out our daily activities. This law will help ensure that all individuals who drive are required to learn the rules of the road and become certified to operate a vehicle. Also, since all licensed drivers in Minnesota are required to carry insurance, we can decrease the number of instances of collisions where one or more of the drivers is uninsured.

Additionally, we know there are other important public safety benefits to having licensed drivers. Licensed drivers are less likely to leave the scene of an accident. Community members who are able to confidently identify themselves to officers are more likely to cooperate with criminal investigations. The Minneapolis Police Department supports House File 1500 because it will support efforts to continually improve the public safety of our community and our roads. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Medaria Arradondo".

Medaria Arradondo  
Chief of Police

CC: Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman, Minority Leader Kurt Daudt, Majority Leader Paul Gazelka,  
Minority Leader Tom Bakk

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March 27, 2019

Members of the House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler,  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

We write to express our strong support for HF1500, which would enable residents of the state of Minnesota to obtain a driver's license or state identification card, regardless of immigration status. This is an important measure that will increase public safety and provide individuals who currently cannot obtain a driver's license with a measure of dignity by permitting them to participate in the lives of their families and community in a way that they currently cannot.

In Minneapolis, we deeply feel the impact of the federal government's action and inaction on the immigration front, as approximately 15% of the population of the City of Minneapolis is composed of immigrants. Current and proposed federal administration policies have had the effect of destabilizing many of our immigrant communities. We have witnessed the fear that long-time residents of our city experience due to the federal government's termination or attempted termination of programs such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), Temporary Protected Status, and most recently, Liberian Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders. We have also witnessed the panic that results from ramped up immigration enforcement efforts. As municipal officials, we are often the first line of defense against xenophobic policies and programs, rapidly working to create policies that ensure that our immigrant communities know that regardless of what is happening on a federal level. Our goal is to increase the stability of our communities, improve public safety and provide equitable access to city services.

HF1500 is an excellent way to promote these goals. We know that this is also an issue of economic inclusion. People in our city must be able to drive to provide for their families and engage productively in their communities. They take their children to school, go grocery shopping, respond to emergencies, and participate in society.

We strongly urge the House of Representatives to pass HF1500, as it represents an important and responsible way to increase safety and security throughout the state of Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter in support of HF1500.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jacob Frey



Council President Lisa Bender



# National Latino Peace Officers Association

Minnesota State Chapter

P O Box 600186, Saint Paul, MN 55106

[WWW.NLPOAMN.ORG](http://WWW.NLPOAMN.ORG)

## Executive Board

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President SPPD

**Yessenia Soto-Mayboca**  
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**James Valentine**  
Treasurer SPPD

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Immediate past President  
State Patrol

**John Lozoya**  
Past President

Senior Cmdr SPPD

**Bill Martinez**  
Past President  
Asist Chief SPPD

Members of the House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler,  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

## Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

On behalf of the National Latino Peace Officers Association MN Chapter, we strongly endorse the Driver's Licenses For All legislation now before the Minnesota legislature.

As a police officer serving in the state of Minnesota, I know that licensed drivers are safer drivers. They have studied traffic laws to pass the written test and have practiced driving skills to pass the road test in order to get a license. They are less fearful of routine interaction with police officers and more willing and able to cooperate with law enforcement. Licensed drivers also are more likely to have insurance. After passing laws to allow undocumented drivers access to licenses, New Mexico saw its [rate of uninsured drivers drop](#) by 24%. Utah saw a similar drop of 20%.

To protect our community, we need the trust and cooperation of people in the community every day. That includes citizens and immigrants, adults and youth, documented and undocumented people. When people are afraid to talk to police or afraid to call and report a crime, that makes everyone in the community less safe.

Driver's licenses serve as identification for many kinds of routine interaction with police. That helps both police officers and the individual we are talking to, whether that individual is a crime victim making a report to us, a witness or potential witness in a case, or someone we are ticketing for going five miles over the speed limit or for having a burnt-out tail light. If someone has a driver's license for identification, these are all routine interactions. If someone does not have a license, these interactions can become frightening for the individual and frustrating for the officer.

As a Latino resident of Minnesota, I also know that Driver's Licenses For All will help families in our community. Many families are mixed-status: one or both parents may be undocumented, with children who are U.S. citizens. Parents need to be able to drive their

children to after-school activities or doctor's appointments. They need to drive to work and church and the grocery store.

Since our founding in 2002, the Minnesota Latino Peace Officers Association has worked, as our mission statement says, "To ensure equal opportunity in the administration of justice for our members and the communities we serve..." Before 2003, driver's licenses in Minnesota were equal opportunity licenses, available to anyone who was old enough to qualify and who passed the tests. I hope that this session of the Minnesota legislature restores that equal opportunity for all to get driver's licenses.

Base on the foregoing, we fully support Driver License For All in every possible way.

Sincerely,

*Francisco Ortíz*

NLPOA Minnesota State-President  
Phone: (651)600-2091  
Email: Frank.nlpoa@gmail.com





OFFICE OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY ATTORNEY

John J. Choi

March 28, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support for House File 1500 to enable all drivers in Minnesota to legally obtain a driver's license**

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

As Ramsey County Attorney, I am concerned about the prevalence of unlicensed drivers in Minnesota. I understand that in 2002, there was a change in the rules governing driver's licenses which resulted in restricting driving privileges to only U.S. citizens and legal residents.

Statewide, nearly 20 percent of drivers do not carry insurance, according to the Insurance Federation of Minnesota. This percentage skyrockets for undocumented immigrants since one must have a valid driver's license to secure insurance. As most driving accidents are caused by unlicensed motorists, we clearly have a problem in our community that requires your attention as lawmakers.

Allowing all drivers to apply for a driver's license will ensure that everyone driving on our roads has demonstrated knowledge of our traffic laws and regulations, as this bill requires unauthorized immigrant drivers to pass both a written and driving test to obtain a license. It will also increase the likelihood of Minnesota drivers carrying auto insurance.

A number of states have prioritized public safety by passing laws allowing their residents to apply for a driver's license regardless of their status. I support this measure because I believe it will result in more licensed, insured drivers on our roads, enhancing public safety.

I fully endorse House File 1500 so we can make our state a better and safer Minnesota, and I hope the legislature will as well. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

John J. Choi  
Ramsey County Attorney





RED WING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ROGER D. POHLMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

March 28, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. 1500 Drivers License and Identification Card Requirements

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

The Red Wing Police Department continues to work with all members of our community in the area of traffic safety. Since 2016 I have worked with members of our Hispanic community in the area of unauthorized immigrant driver's license. Many of our non-licensed immigrant drivers work on local dairy farms and have no other way to get to work, other than to drive illegally without a driver's license and in many cases without insurance. This places our legal drivers at risk, and also when a crash occurs, added costs or penalties for uninsured motorists, and expense to our legal drivers. Through support of H.F. 1500, unauthorized immigrant drivers would have the opportunity to demonstrate driver skill through written and driving testing, while also providing an opportunity to purchase vehicle insurance. Stanford University researchers conducted a study in California that concluded that allowing unauthorized immigrant drivers to obtain driver's license, did not increase the total number of accidents, but it did reduce the likelihood of hit and run accidents, which improved traffic safety and reduced costs for California drivers.

Additionally, when our officers cannot positively identify an individual, the officer will transport the unknown driver to the County Jail, for fingerprints and attempts to positively identify the individual. This removes officers from the street for added periods of time and prevents our ability to properly respond to calls for service from our citizens. By having a state issued driver's license, officers can positively identify an individual and issue the appropriate citation, allowing them to proceed on their way.

By allowing immigrant driver's license to be issued with proper identification and markings, that they are not to be used to establish residency for voting purposes, we can allow the immigrant

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430 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
Website: [www.red-wing.org](http://www.red-wing.org)  
Phone: 651.267.2600  
Admin. Fax: 651.267.2669  
Records Fax: 651.267.2695

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members of our community to drive legally. Whether going to or from their employer's farm or helping their US Citizen children get to and from school events, we can create an opportunity for these individuals to be active participants in our community and State.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the opportunity to make Minnesota roads safer for all our community members.

Respectfully,



ROGER D. POHLMAN  
Chief of Police

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430 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
Website: [www.red-wing.org](http://www.red-wing.org)  
Phone: 651.267.2600  
Admin. Fax: 651.267.2669  
Records Fax: 651.267.2695

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# RICHFIELD

POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 29, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support for House File 1500**

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

The Richfield Police Department is committed to safeguarding the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidences and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the community to improve their quality of life.

As the Chief of Police of Richfield, I want all of our residents regardless of race, religion, or legal status to be active and law-abiding members of our community. In the City Of Richfield, we have a very diverse population that relies on vehicles to get to work.

Many undocumented persons have no ability to get to work, health services, church, or school other than by driving unlawfully.

Unlicensed drivers present a danger to not only themselves, but all of us who drive, walk, bike, or take transit to carry out our daily activities. This law will help ensure that individuals who want and need to drive will have to learn the rules of the road and become certified to operate a vehicle. Also, since all licensed drivers in Minnesota are required to carry insurance, we can decrease the number of instances of collisions where one or more of the drivers is uninsured.

House File 1500 will help increase the public safety of our community and our roads.

I recommend that you support this bill and allow every Minnesotan the opportunity to obtain a driver's license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay A. Henthorne".

Jay A. Henthorne  
Chief of Police  
(612) 861-9828



# Scott County Sheriff's Office

**LUKE W. HENNEN, SHERIFF**

March 26, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support for House File 1500**

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

As Sheriff of Scott County, I am committed to protecting the peace and maintaining public safety through trusted service and respect. I want our residents, regardless of race, religion, or legal status, to be active and law-abiding members of our community. Therefore, I support House File 1500, a bill to allow all residents to obtain a driver's license or Minnesota identification card.

In Scott County, ninety percent of our residents rely on motor vehicles to get to work, while less than two percent take public transit. Many undocumented persons have no ability to get to work, church, health services, or school, other than by driving illegally.

Unlicensed drivers present a danger to not only themselves, but all of us who drive, walk, bike, or take transit to carry out our daily activities. This law will help ensure that individuals who want and need to drive will have to learn the rules of the road and become certified to operate a vehicle. Also, since all licensed drivers in Minnesota are required to carry insurance, we can decrease the number of instances of collisions where one or more of the drivers is uninsured.

House File 1500 will help increase the public safety of our community and our roads. I recommend that you support this bill and allow every Minnesotan the opportunity to obtain a driver's license.

Sincerely,

Luke W. Hennen  
County Sheriff  
(952) 496-8625  
[lhennen@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:lhennen@co.scott.mn.us)



**JEFF TATE**  
Chief of Police  
jtate@ShakopeeMN.gov  
Direct Dial 952-233-9421

April 2, 2019

Honorable Ryan Winkler  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

Re: H.F. 1500 Drivers License and Identification Card Requirements

Dear Representative Winkler and Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

The Shakopee Police Department is committed to providing service with integrity and professionalism to our community. Our mission of community orientated policing is something our department takes pride in and continually strives to do our best at for all citizens of our city. I have been the Chief of Police of Shakopee for ten years and can say that H.F. 1500 will support our efforts within the community by affording every person the opportunity to obtain a driver's license.

Many of our non- licensed immigrant drivers work at area businesses and have no other means to get to work other than to drive illegally without a driver's license and most times without insurance. Unlicensed drivers not only endanger themselves but endanger society as a whole. If a crash occurs and the driver is unlicensed they more than likely do not have insurance. This law would help individuals who need to drive, learn the rules of the road through written and driving tests and safely learn how to operate a motor vehicle. Since it is mandatory for all licensed drivers in Minnesota to carry insurance, a decrease in uninsured motorists is a benefit of this law.

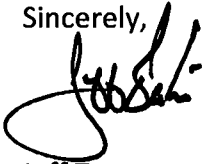
After passing laws to allow undocumented drivers access to licenses, New Mexico saw its rate of uninsured drivers drop by 24%. Utah saw a similar drop of 20%. Stanford University researchers conducted a study in California and concluded that allowing unauthorized immigrant drivers to obtain a driver's license did not increase the total number of accidents or fatal crashes, but it did reduce the likelihood of hit and run accidents, which improved traffic safety and reduced costs for California drivers. States that have allowed unauthorized immigrants to apply for a driving document have on average less traffic fatalities than states requiring either documented legal presence or a valid social security number.

Allowing unauthorized immigrants access to driver's licenses would grant officers greater ability to enforce laws in immigrant communities. Additionally, H.F. 1500 will allow officers to positively identify an individual they encounter, issue the appropriate citation and allow them to continue on their way. The bill also enhances officer safety, creates fewer warrants, cuts down on wasted time trying to identify individuals and will have a positive impact on court administration. Not only will we see an added benefit of officer safety but also increased safety to the public. Licensed drivers are less likely to leave the scene of an accident or situation when law enforcement is called if they can confidently identify themselves, thus increasing cooperation with law enforcement.

By allowing immigrant driver's licenses to be issued, members of our community can safely travel to their jobs, help their children get to and from school, activities and appointments safely and with confidence.

Thank you for your time and also for considering this request, I recommend that you support this bill and allow every Minnesotan who chooses to, have the opportunity to obtain a driver's license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tate", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Tate  
Chief of Police

JT:cr1



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Melvin Carter, Mayor

367 Grove Street Telephone: 651-266-5588  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101 Facsimile: 651-266-5542

March 21, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

The Saint Paul Police Department protects the peace and maintains public safety through trusted service with respect. Serving all members of our community with dignity and respect is at the heart of everything we do. The Saint Paul Police Department is committed to engaging the community at historic levels and works to reduce crime by building stronger relationships between our officers and our community. House File 1500 will directly support these efforts by affording every Minnesotan the opportunity to obtain a driver's license and to engage in our community in a safe and meaningful way.

We want all of our residents, regardless of race, religion, or legal status, to be active and law-abiding members of our community. Unlicensed drivers endanger not only themselves, but all of us who drive, walk, bike, or take transit to carry out our daily activities. This law will help ensure that all individuals who drive are required to learn the rules of the road and become certified to operate a vehicle. Also, since all licensed drivers in Minnesota are required to carry insurance, we can decrease the number of instances of collisions where one or more of the drivers is uninsured.

Additionally, we know there are other important public safety benefits to having licensed drivers. Licensed drivers are less likely to leave the scene of accident. Community members who are able to confidently identify themselves to officers are more likely to cooperate with criminal investigations. The Saint Paul Police Department supports House File 1500 because it will support efforts to continually improve the public safety of our community and our roads. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Axtell  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CC: Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman, Minority Leader Kurt Daudt, Majority Leader Paul Gazelka,  
Minority Leader Tom Bakk



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
Mayor Melvin Carter

390 City Hall  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-  
8510  
Facsimile: 651-266-8521

April 2, 2019

Rep. Melissa Hortman  
Speaker of the House  
463 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I ask that you pass HF1500 which will allow all Minnesotans to obtain a driver's license regardless of immigration status.

Like many cities across Minnesota, Saint Paul has been growing and becoming more diverse as immigrants and other newcomers relocate to find work and raise their families. Nearly one in five residents of Saint Paul, over 58,000 people, were born outside of the United States. Nearly one in four of our residents speak a language other than English.

We know that these new community members are helping to build up our economy. A 2015 report issued by the Minnesota State Demographer indicates that if not for the migration of international residents, the state of Minnesota would be experiencing a net population loss of 7,000 to 12,000 residents per year. These new comers are filling critical jobs and creating new ones by opening new businesses. It is in our city's economic interest to ensure these residents have the tools they need to thrive in our community. That's why the City of Saint Paul supports HF1500 which would ensure that all our residents can become licensed to operate a vehicle.

If enacted, this legislation will directly support our efforts to holistically increase safety in our city. Through our Community First Public Safety strategy, we are working to reduce crime by building stronger relationships between our officers and members of our community. We know that licensed drivers are less likely to leave the scene of accident before officers arrive. We also know that community members who can confidently identify themselves to officers are more likely to cooperate with criminal investigations. Additionally, increasing the number of licensed drivers on the road will create a safer environment for all who drive, bicycle, walk, and use transit in our city.

I stand with leaders in business, labor, public safety, and other parts of our community in urging the members of this committee to support HF1500 so that we can take every possible step to ensure that new Americans can safely and confidently share our roads.

Sincerely,

Melvin Carter  
Mayor





**WILLMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHIEF OF POLICE**

2201 23rd ST. NE  
Suite 102  
WILLMAR, MN 56201-9566  
320-214-6700; 320-235-2244 V/TDD  
FAX 320-231-6556

March 3, 2019

Representative Baker:

Thank you for your leadership in supporting legislation that concerns the public safety of Minnesota. I understand that in 2002, there was a change in the rules governing driver's licenses which resulted in restricting driving privileges to only U.S. citizens and legal residents. I am aware that there is bipartisan legislation currently introduced that would reinstate the ability for all drivers in Minnesota to apply for a driver's license, regardless of immigration status.

Allowing all residents to apply for a driver's license will help ensure that more people driving on our roads pass an exam, demonstrating knowledge of our traffic laws, regulations and proficiency with behind the wheel testing. It can also improve the likelihood of more drivers carrying auto insurance through ease of obtaining it with a state issued license.

As law enforcement, it is important that residents have a state issued identification which includes their address. Under this law, residents will be able to obtain driver's licenses, which would allow officers to more easily identify the people they are encountering. At this time, officers must often work through interpreting a variety of documents from different countries and in languages other than English. This will also help law enforcement identify victims of crimes and assist in identifying people in medical emergencies or patients in traffic crashes.

A number of states have prioritized public safety by passing laws allowing their residents to apply for a driver's license regardless of their status. I understand that, according to the proposed legislation, the requirements to obtain a driver's license without a social security number will be very stringent. I support this measure because I believe it will result in more licensed, insured drivers on our roads and enhance public safety.

I support the passing of HF1500 so that we can make our state a better and safer Minnesota, and I hope the legislature will as well. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Felt  
Willmar Police Department



KARIN L. SONNEMAN  
WINONA COUNTY ATTORNEY



Sheriff Ron Ganrude  
Winona County Sheriff's Office

March 28, 2019

Representative Gene Pelowski  
Representative Steve Draskowski

Members of the House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler,  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Re: Support for H. F. 1500

Dear Representative Pelowski, Representative Draskowski and all other Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

We are writing this letter together, in support of HF 1500, because allowing all persons who live in Minnesota who are qualified and licensed to drive motor vehicles, regardless of their immigration status, will enhance public safety for all of us. We have supported similar legislation in past years and we ask you to support this bill in the current legislative session.

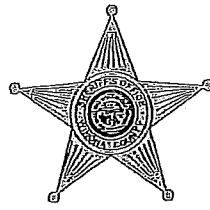
Statistics show that unlicensed drivers account for a majority of motor vehicle accidents resulting in serious injuries and fatalities. Drivers who are licensed, having met the driver's education requirements, passed the written and behind the wheel tests, and who are properly insured, increase public safety on the road for all of us. Twelve states and the District of Columbia have all implemented similar driver's licenses for all.

We ask that you support HF 1500 because it will enhance public safety in Minnesota.

Thank you.

Karin L. Sonneman  
Winona County Attorney

Ron Ganrude  
Winona County Sheriff



Sheriff Ron Ganrude  
**Winona County Sheriff's Office**

March 27, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives

c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd.

St. Paul, MN. 55155

RE: Support for House File 1500

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives

I am the elected Sheriff of Winona County with my fundamental duty to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent and the peaceful against violence and disorder; and to respect the rights of everyone. I want my residents, regardless of legal status, to be active and law-abiding members of Winona County. I support House File 1500, a bill to allow all Minnesota residents to apply for a driver's license or identification card.

It is important for everyone driving our roadways to have the knowledge of our current laws and receive practical driving experience. Passing this bill is extremely important to public safety because it will allow unauthorized immigrants to apply for a driver's license. They would be required to pass the written and practical test, making them much safer drivers. Once they receive their valid license they would also be able to get car insurance which is another major problem. States that already allow this have a significant decrease in uninsured motorists.

Lastly, this bill would assist Law Enforcement in properly identifying people. Currently, a lot of time is consumed by officers, trying to and waiting to, positively identifying unlicensed residents.

Thank you for your consideration. It is my hope that the bill will pass for public safety reasons and to ensure that officer's time will be better utilized. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald J. Ganrude".

Ronald J. Ganrude



*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others*





CITY OF WORTHINGTON

PUBLIC SAFETY



PRAIRIE JUSTICE CENTER  
1530 AIRPORT ROAD, STE 300  
WORTHINGTON MN 56187  
TELEPHONE: (507) 295-5400  
FAX: (507) 372-5977

March 28, 2019

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for House File 1500

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

As Chief of Police for the City of Worthington, I write to urge support of House File 1500, a bill to allow all residents to obtain a driver's license or Minnesota identification card.

Worthington police officers encounter numerous inexperienced, undocumented drivers on a daily basis. As a result, our officers fulfil their commitment to public safety and issue tickets for various moving violations and driver's license related offenses. Worthington residents are victimized by a significant number of hit-and-run accidents, due in many circumstances to issues related to unlicensed, uninsured drivers. Investigations of these matters consume time, energy, and resources from law enforcement, prosecution, and courts for simple traffic offenses that compound into major problems for the violators.

Most of our local, unlicensed drivers lack a basic understanding of traffic laws and the justice system in general. Locally, public transit opportunities are limited, so people without other means find themselves having to drive regardless of the consequences. We police in an unbiased manner and our department has done many things to ease the community's perceptions and fears, but it remains difficult due to this constant issue.

From a public safety perspective, I argue we need to look to the root of the problem and make an effort to provide education related to the responsibilities of owning and operating a motor vehicle. If a level of understanding can be achieved, and limited drivers' license issued, our streets would be safer and more drivers would be insured. I'd rather see an educated, insured motoring public, than continue with our current circumstances.

I'd hope that the licensing of undocumented people will be the first step in a process which aids in a legal path to citizenship. This should be a process that improves current issues related to identity fraud, not one that complicates it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Troy Appel

# Worthington

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF WORTHINGTON ■ 303 NINTH STREET, PO BOX  
279 ■ WORTHINGTON, MN 56187

March 28, 2019

Members of the House of Representatives  
c/o Majority Leader Ryan Winkler,  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

In rural Minnesota, we all need to drive—to work, to school, to the grocery store, or even to our favorite fishing spot. Since 2003, many in our community have had a problem with driving. That's when politicians in St. Paul changed decades of Minnesota law to prevent undocumented immigrants from getting Minnesota driver's licenses.

This year, we have a good chance to change that law back, with the Driver's Licenses for All bill now making its way through the Minnesota legislature. The bill, co-sponsored by our own representative Rod Hamilton (R-22B), has had packed and enthusiastic hearings in the Minnesota House.

First and foremost, this Driver's License bill is about improving safety. According to Chief of Police for the City of Worthington Troy Appel, local officers encounter numerous undocumented drivers every day. Making licenses available to undocumented drivers will mean that they learn all the rules of the road before they take driver's tests and earn their license, creating a safer environment for all. Further, providing reliable identification documents issued by the state will allow local law enforcement the ability to identify who they are working with, during encounters that range from routine to emergency. Chief Appel joins me in supporting this bill to improve public safety.

For mixed-status families, issuing licenses to undocumented immigrant parents also means giving U.S. citizen children safer access to essential services like education and healthcare. For these children, living in uncertainty about whether their parents will remain in the United States may lead to life-long trauma.

In addition, making licenses available to undocumented drivers will also increase the number of drivers on our roads with auto insurance. After passing laws to allow undocumented drivers access to licenses, New Mexico saw its [rate of uninsured drivers drop](#) by 24%. Utah saw a similar drop of 20%. Simple economics tells us that fewer uninsured drivers on the road means lower premiums for everyone.

Immigrants have helped keep Worthington growing and vibrant, instead of shrinking like too many other small towns in Minnesota. Immigrants are our neighbors and valued community members. They work in agriculture and industry, they open businesses and provide jobs, and they help to keep Worthington thriving.

I care about the safety of our roads and the well-being for all Worthington residents. Licensing all drivers, regardless of immigration status, is a responsible way to increase safety and security for all.

Sincerely,



Mike Kuhle

Mayor, City of Worthington