

UNITE HERE

Local Union No. 17

312 Central Avenue, Suite 444
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Phone: 612-379-4730

Fax: 612-379-8698

e-mail: info@here17.org

March 29, 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

UNITE HERE Local 17 - the Hospitality Union, is a union whose membership is made up of nearly 70% immigrants. A great majority of these members are recent to our country. This is part of why we strongly support and recommend the passage of HR 1500. We feel this measure is long overdue. For years our Local has worked with other Labor unions, the Minnesota Chamber, Law enforcement, faith denominations & community organizations. We are one community, one State and one Nation formed by immigrants.

All these organizations have strongly supported drivers licenses for all. Many members of Law Enforcement have strongly argued that allowing drivers to be receive licenses promotes public safety. As you are aware the proposal in front of you will ensure that drivers are trained, tested and able to obtain insurance. Drivers who have a valid drivers license can identify themselves and are more willing to interact with police and other government agencies. We feel our law enforcement officers should not have to waste tax dollars pursuing these residents for driving without a license, when there are far more important law enforcement priorities to expend limited resources on other.

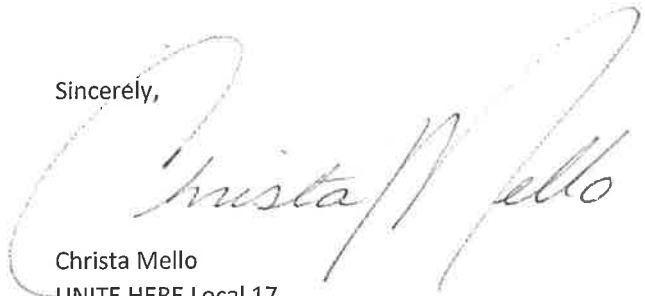
Researchers have demonstrated that expanding access to drivers' licenses leads to access to better job and improvements to the economy. People who have the mobility to find a better job can receive a higher paycheck and contribute more in taxes.

UNITE HERE Local 17 believes that passing HR 1550: will reduce the hit and run accidents and fatal accidents by allowing these drivers access to training and testing on driving skills. We believe it will increase the number of drivers who obtain car insurance, allowing the cost of car insurance to decrease FOR ALL drivers. When drivers are allowed the opportunity to have a valid driver's license, they are also then able to purchase vehicles. This boost in sales will in turn have a positive economic impact and help to strengthen the economy.


In addition, by issuing drivers licenses to the thousands of drivers that would be eligible, regardless of their immigration status, Minnesota will generate additional dollars in issuance of the increased number of drivers licenses and in vehicle registration fees. They will then have the option to become organ donors which then has a healthy impact on the over-all well-being of our community.

UNITE HERE! Local 17 strongly urges you to implement HR 1500, By doing so you will be ensuring that all drivers have the ability to be trained, tested, insured and held accountable, law enforcement funds can be directed to more important priorities, and additional money will be put back into our state in multiple ways which will help to strengthened the economy.

Sincerely,



Christa Mello
UNITE HERE Local 17
President



Wade Luneburg
UNITE HERE MN State Council
Secretary



April 5, 2019

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

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

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

The Minnesota Nurses Association is the largest voice for professional nursing in the State of Minnesota. We act on behalf of over 22,000 members as a leader in both labor and healthcare communities. We are a voice for our members on issues relating to the professional, economic and general well-being of nurses. Our members are advocates for patients at the bedside and anywhere else they can promote health; and safe, quality care.

We write to express our support for HF 1500, which would allow Drivers Licenses for All in Minnesota. Our support for this bill stems from MNA's commitment to social justice and health equity and our intimate understanding that access to benefits that make communities stronger leads to better health outcomes for all.

Access to a driver's license supports building communities that are stronger economically and more inclusive socially and culturally. Access to driver's licenses for immigrants is key to a healthy community. It allows economic mobility, encourages involvement in civic life, fosters a sense of belonging, and increases interconnectedness and commitment to our state.

Having access to a driver's license allows Minnesotan's to drive to doctor's appointments, to pick up prescriptions, to visit family, to participate in faith traditions, and be involved in their communities safely and without fear. In short, it allows them to be Minnesotan.

MNA is proud to be part of Freedom to Drive MN, a statewide coalition of non-profit organizations, unions, immigrants' rights advocates, community-based groups and collectives, faith-based organizations, workers' rights advocates and businesses led by the Multiracial Coalition on Immigration.

We urge you to vote yes on HF 1500.

Sincerely,

Shannon Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association

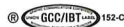
345 Randolph Avenue
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55102

Tel: 651.414.2800
800.536.4662

Fax: 651.695.7000

Email: mnnurses@mnnurses.org

Web: www.mnnurses.org



AFL-CIO

March 25th, 2019



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CLC

SEIU Minnesota State Council

Brian Elliott
Executive Director

2233 University Avenue West
Suite 422
Saint Paul, MN 55114-1629

651.203.0401
Fax: 651.203.0405

Healthcare Minnesota

Jamie Gulley
President

651.294.8100
fax: 651.294.8200

Local 284

Kelly Gibbons
Executive Director

651.256.9100
fax: 651.256.9119

Local 26

Javier Morillo-Alicea
President

612.331.8336
fax: 612.331.8347

Workers United

Margarito Diaz Jaimes
Regional Political Coordinator

312.738.6100

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:

SEIU is Minnesota's third largest and fastest-growing labor union, representing over 50,000 workers statewide who provide care and support for Minnesota families in your homes, hospitals, public schools, nursing homes, hotels, universities and the Twin Cities' largest public and private buildings, and who make and distribute products used by Minnesotans every day.

Our members organize in their workplaces to help lift standards for our families and strengthen our communities. But we know that our lives don't stop when we leave our place of employment, which is why we also fight at the Capitol for respect, fairness and dignity for all Minnesota families.

It is these bedrock Minnesota values that underscore why we are in full support of HF1500, the Freedom to Drive bill.

We want our roads to be safe for everyone. We want all drivers to have the ability to take a test and get insurance so if something bad does happen it can be resolved. But the current law doesn't allow these basic steps for thousands of Minnesotans.

When this law was changed in 2003, it made our neighbors, co-workers, friends and families feel unwelcome. We believe Minnesota is a better than this.

Parents will always make sure their kids can get safely to school during the polar vortex. People will always drive their parents to the hospital if they are having health issues. Minnesotans will always drive to work to make sure they have enough money to pay their bills and provide for their families. The current law doesn't change these facts, it just denies people the chance to go through the process of testing and getting a license like everyone else.

We often are on the opposite side of issues from the Chamber of Commerce, but the Freedom to Drive bill brings together labor unions, business groups, law enforcement, faith leaders and community groups. We know a small group of people in power will try to divide our diverse, bi-partisan coalition. But we believe Minnesota is ready to show that this bill is one where common sense is stronger than divide and conquer.

Right now there are Minnesotans who just want to do what is right, but our laws prevent it. Allowing every Minnesotan – white, black or brown, rural or metro – the chance to get a driver's license would mean the world for families across Minnesota who are currently denied the chance to get one.

We urge you to pass the Freedom to Drive bill so our roads can be safe for ALL of our families.

In Solidarity,

Brian Elliott
Executive Director
SEIU Minnesota State Council



March 26, 2019

Representative Ryan Winkler, Majority Leader
Minnesota House of Representatives
459 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear House Majority Leader Winkler:

We're writing to inform you the Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the Freedom to Drive legislation, HF 1500 (Winkler). HF 1500 will strengthen public safety, improve accessibility, and expand people's freedom to provide for their families. While immigration may be a federal policy issue, it impacts people in communities across Minnesota.

HF 1500 is primarily a public safety measure. Minnesota's roads are safer when drivers are trained, tested and licensed. Allowing immigrants to be well trained and tested, prior to obtaining a driver's license benefits everyone on the road. We all benefit when drivers are knowledgeable about traffic rules and regulations. This is a fact that twelve states and the District of Columbia have recognized in enacting similar legislation.

People always want to make life better for themselves and their families. Access to driver's licenses helps build strong, inclusive, economically vibrant communities. Expanding the freedom to drive to immigrants encourages community involvement and creates a sense of belonging.

Driving is a necessity, not a choice, for the vast majority of families. Having a driver's license allows a family the freedom to attend parent teacher conferences, church, and commute to work. Undocumented immigrants are part of Minnesota's communities and economy. Access to driver's licenses not only helps undocumented workers but also helps the communities in which they already live and work.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the passage of HF 1500. We respectfully ask for your YES vote to pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time and please contact us should you have questions.

Sincerely,

William McCarthy
President

Bradley Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer

WM/BL/bh
opeiu12/afl-cio

Denise Specht
President

Paul Mueller
Vice President

Rodney Rowe
Secretary-Treasurer

Sara Gjerdrum
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

April 4, 2019

To: Rep. Ryan Winkler, House Majority Leader


From: Education Minnesota

Subject: Support of HF1500

Educators across Minnesota work with all students and all families, no matter their race or immigration status. We want to make sure those students and families are able to get to and from school safely and without fear. We also want to make sure all families are a valued, included and engaged part of their school community.

Education Minnesota supports HF1500, because much like access to a driver's license, access to public education is a core value of freedom and opportunity.

41 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103
651-227-9541 800-652-9073 Fax 651-292-4802
www.educationminnesota.org

*Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. *



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

One strong united voice for Minnesota workers

300 Hardman Avenue S.
South St. Paul, MN 55075
(651) 450-4990
(651) 455-1311 fax



www.afscmemn.org

211 West 2nd Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-0577
fax (218) 722-6802

April 1, 2019

Dear Representative:

We are writing to you with our strong support of HF 1500, the proposal to allow drivers' license access for thousands of Minnesotans currently barred from the system. This proposal would give thousands of people the freedom to share our roads and participate in our state's communities with dignity and safety.

Drivers' licenses for all would make our streets safer, plain and simple. There are two options when considering HF 1500: should we allow undocumented Minnesotans to take the license exam, purchase car insurance, and drive on our roads; or, should we continue with the current system in which undocumented Minnesotans do not take the exam, do not purchase car insurance, and drive anyway. The choice is clear.

HF 1500 will also allow undocumented Minnesotans to navigate their communities with less fear that they will be detained by law enforcement that could result in expensive fines, lost income from employment, and possibly deportation. Regardless of what some may feel on whether or not undocumented people should live in Minnesota, the fact of the matter is that almost anybody who lives in Minnesota needs to use a car on a daily basis to drop kids off at school, go to work, buy groceries, go to a place of worship, and any number of other essential tasks to thrive in our communities, and no one should be forced from participating because of their immigration status.

At AFSCME, we work to embody respect, dignity, compassion in all the work we do on the basis of unqualified equality, because of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or political belief. HF 1500 more than meets that threshold, and we urge you to vote green for drivers' licenses for all.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Westmoreland".

John P. Westmoreland
Executive Director
AFSCME MN Council 5, AFL-CIO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Bleyhl".

Julie Bleyhl
Legislative Director
AFSCME MN Council 5, AFL-CIO



March 25, 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:

SEIU Local 26, Minnesota's Property Services Union, represents 8,000 workers from diverse communities residing in the Twin Cities Metro Area. I write to you on behalf of those members, their families, and the communities they live in. At SEIU Local 26 we understand that driving is a crucial activity to an individual's participation in the social fabric of Minnesota. HF1500, a bill to provide drivers licenses for individuals without federal immigration status, will allow immigrant communities to contribute fully to the state they call home. In the absence of federal immigration reform, states like ours must confront the reality that immigrants live and work here, sustaining important sectors of our economy, including agricultural and service sectors.

Immigrant Minnesotans reside in your districts, contribute to the economy, pay taxes, and their children—many of them US-born citizens—attend public schools. They want to do right by their neighbors; HF1500 will enable motorists to access driver's education, purchase auto insurance, and be less reticent to report crime as victims or witnesses. In many cases, immigrant Minnesotans have no other option but to drive to work. They drive to take their children to school, to medical appointments, and to avoid exposure in our harsh winter months. Access to driver's licenses will provide US citizen children access to proper, safe transportation.

Our membership and the communities they come from want to continue to contribute to the state's vitality. Please support this bill and remove one of the obstacles that keep them from fully doing so.

Sincerely,

Javier Morillo-Alicea

President, SEIU Local 26

JAVIER MORILLO-ALICEA
President

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
CTW, CLC

1620 Central Ave NE, Suite 177
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Member Resource Center
1.855.265.6225
Fax 612.331.8347



President
Matthew Utecht

Secretary-Treasurer
Paul Crandall

Director of Packing
Michael Potter

ufcw663.org

BROOKLYN CENTER OFFICE
6160 Summit Drive N., Ste 600
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
Office 763-525-1500 or 800-292-4105
Fax 763-525-0680

WORTHINGTON OFFICE
1039 Oxford Street
P.O. Box 183
Worthington, MN 56187
Office 507-376-4234
Fax 507-376-6604

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:

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663 are over 13,200 workers in Minnesota and Iowa in the grocery, meat packing, food processing, retail, healthcare and other industries. From the pork to the fork, we feed Midwestern families, take care of our elderly and vulnerable communities, and make people look and feel good about the communities they create.

We have union members statewide who depend on--and demand--safe work environments. As workers, we deserve the same safety on the roads that we take to get to and from work. That's one of the reasons why we strongly support HF 1500, the License Access and Public Safety Act.

Minnesota moves forward when we invest in people. Access to driver's licenses is the right thing to do. Expanding access to driver's licenses for all people of age, regardless of status, supports our UFCW union families—in Worthington, Madelia, Butterfield, Luverne, Twin Cities and all the way to Pequot Lakes. It's not just about our UFCW 663 union family. It's bigger than that. We realize that union membership isn't just about fighting for our union families, it's about fighting for better lives for all working families.

We urge you to vote yes on HF 1500 and help drive Minnesota forward by expanding access to driver's licenses for all. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Utecht
President, UFCW Local 663