January 12, 2021

Representative Jamie Becker-Finn Minnesota Senate Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Becker-Finn.

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) supports passage of SF26 (/HF17 (Limmer/Becker-Finn) which extends the waiver of the in-person appearance requirement for a marriage license application to May 31, 2021.

Thank you for taking quick action on this important issue and providing time for additional discussion regarding extending the waiver permanently.

MACO supports allowing counties the option of permanently waiving the requirement and is confident that counties will provide this service while continuing to protect the integrity of marriage licenses as vital documents.

Counties that have waived the in-person appearance requirement have found that delivering this service in this way has been immensely popular with their residents. This process has also proven to be efficient, safe, and secure. Counties have been asked to continue to provide quality services in these difficult times, so utilizing efficiencies such as waiving the in-person appearance requirement helps us deliver even better services to our residents.

Thank you again for your support and for your eagerness to explore making the in-person appearance requirement permanent. As always, MACO members are always available as resources and committee testifiers.

Sincerely yours,

Betti Kamolz

Betti Kamolz Brown County Recorder Co-chair, Minnesota County Recorders Association Legislative Committee Co-chair, Minnesota Association of County Officials Legislative Committee