

Minnesota Business
Immigration Coalition

25 March 2015

Dear Chair Kelly,

On behalf of the Minnesota Business Immigration Coalition, we respectfully urge you to support HF97 and the author's amendment to the bill.

HF97 is important to employers across the state, as many rely on an immigrant workforce able to operate legally and safely on Minnesota roads. This legislation improves public safety by requiring unauthorized immigrants to prove their identity and residency, pass a driving test, and secure vehicle insurance before driving.

It would allow for verification of drivers' identities for law enforcement officials and increase the number of drivers on Minnesota roads who have insurance.

In short, HF97 improves public safety on our roads and highways.

Ten states have passed laws to require undocumented drivers to pass a driver's test.¹ Almost all of these laws created a limited provision of driving privileges only. At least ten states are considering similar proposals.

The one suggestion we have, and which an amendment will hopefully address, is that the drivers document convey driving privileges only. This is a practical, limited solution. It addresses a problem that impacts both the metro and outstate communities in Minnesota without creating unintended consequences.

There are various ways to ensure that the driver's document is limited to driving privileges only, whether the document itself states "for driving only", indicates "status check", or has some other marking. We are committed to working with advocates and the authors to find the best way to create a limited license.

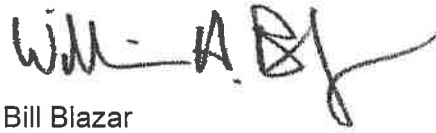
¹ National Immigrant Law Center. Current & Pending State Laws & Policies on Driver's Licenses for Immigrants. March 2014. <http://www.nilc.org/DLaccesstoolkit2.html#table>.

On behalf of the Minnesota Business Immigration Coalition, we respectfully urge you to support the amended HF97.

Sincerely,



Perry Aasness
Executive Director
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council



Bill Blazar
Interim President
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce



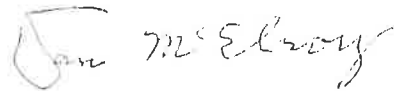
Nick George
President
Midwest Food Processors Association



Cassie Larson
Executive Director
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association



Bob Lefebvre
Executive Director
Minnesota Milk Producers Association



Dan McElroy
Executive Vice President
Minnesota Lodging Association
Minnesota Restaurant Association

CC: Members of the House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee