

January 25, 2021

RE: HFXXX Certifications for Victims of Crimes

Dear Chair Mariana and members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform and Finance Policy Committee:

I, Tania Dominguez Chon, paralegal and office manager, support the proposed bill and respectfully request that members of this committee support efforts to prevent the victimization of Minnesota residents especially in Greater Minnesota. HFXXX promotes a streamlined certification process throughout the state of Minnesota which will provide guidance to law enforcement agencies when receiving such requests. This will be most beneficial to law enforcement agencies with fewer resources. It will eliminate the confusion for law enforcement agencies not familiar with this process as well as cut down the time that these law enforcement agencies spend on these certifications as the process will be clear and efficient. Furthermore, HFXXX promotes the protection of crime victims and ensures that foreign national crime victims are available to assist in the prosecution of those accused of the crimes.

Currently, there is no standard certification process throughout Minnesota. Foreign national/immigrant victims of crimes are treated differently depending on the community where the crime occurred. This was not the intention of Congress. Congress created the U visa to address the problem that immigrant women and children are often targeted to be victims of crimes committed against them in the United States, including domestic violence, sexual assault, involuntary servitude, being held hostage or being criminally restrained. However, unless and until this state develops a statewide certification process, the intent of congress to protect all immigrant victims of crimes cannot be fulfilled to the full extent of the law.

As an immigration law paralegal, I have seen firsthand the impact that these certifications have had on our community. Immigrants are not afraid to report crimes to the police and cooperate with the police anymore. The more that victims report crimes to the police, the safer our communities will continue to be. It is why I believe this will help all our communities become better and safer.

Supporting HFXXX will allow communities throughout Greater Minnesota foster positive relationships with law enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Tania Dominguez Chon

Sworn and subscribed before me
this 25th of January 2021.

