



March 10, 2025

Rep. Paul Novotny, Chair
MN House of Representatives
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

RE: Comment in Opposition to HF16

Dear Chair Novotny and Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

I am writing to express Jewish Community Action's strong opposition to HF16. We signed on to [this letter](#), which you received from our partners. However, as Jewish Minnesotans who organize for economic, racial and social justice, we think it is important to share why this legislation is so dangerous to our community and to other religious minorities.

At JCA, we have been organizing for immigration justice since our founding in 1995, recognizing that the American immigration experience is foundational to the Jewish community's experience in this country. Most of our families came to Minnesota in pursuit of the American dream, and the ideals of democracy, prosperity and freedom that it represents. Many of us came as refugees, escaping violence and discrimination based on our identity - discrimination which was legal and encouraged under the repressive regimes where our families came from. We know too well what can happen when marginalized groups are targeted based on their identity. We were isolated, we were governed by fear, and we withdrew and were withdrawn from our friends, coworkers and neighbors. Policies like HF 16 contributed to our experiences of isolation and fear. We survived to make sure that kind of discrimination, violence and displacement never happens again - for anyone. We have an obligation to ensure that everyone who lives, learns and works here in Minnesota is able to do so safely and legally.

HF 16 undermines public safety for immigrants, and for all Minnesotans, and we urge you to reject this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Gendler", is written over a horizontal line.

Beth Gendler, Executive Director