

Written Testimony of Kate Westlund Tovsen on HF1163

Dear Transportation Committee Members,

I am writing today in support of restoring access to driver's licenses for immigrants.

The hearings in the House so far have been well attended and all testimony has been in favor of restoring this access. The House has heard and passed restoring driver's licenses to undocumented people in five committees. I'm asking the Senate committee to please also listen to and consider the voices of Minnesotans.

Beyond the issue of restoring human dignity (since this right was taken away in 2003), I support this issue more broadly because restoring driver's licenses for immigrants would make our roads safer:

- 1) Licensed drivers are less likely to be involved in fatal accidents or leave the scene of accidents.
- 2) Licensed drivers are more likely to have insurance.
- 3) To obtain a license, drivers must pass knowledge and road tests, ensuring that they know the rules of the road.

We are a country of immigrants, and we are a state of immigrants; our diversity makes us stronger. We expect our elected leadership to stand up for all Minnesotans, regardless of the year we arrived here.

Thank you for your time,

Kate Tovsen
Stacy, MN