



March 10, 2025

Chair Paul Novotny  
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Capitol 120

**Re: Opposing proposal to prohibit immigration enforcement non-cooperation ordinances and policies (HF16)**

Dear Chair Novotny and Committee members,

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs is a state agency that advises and informs the state legislature and government on issues relevant to our diverse Latine communities.

The Council wishes to express its opposition to HF16. This proposal prohibits immigration non-cooperation ordinances and policies. The bill also includes provisions that preempts any local authority from restricting access to federal agents to information regarding citizenship and immigration status, and mandates reporting undocumented offenders to federal immigration authorities.

This bill (like HF772) is detrimental to our constituents and counterproductive to public safety, undermining the trust between local authorities and immigrant communities. Immigrants, regardless of their legal status, should feel safe to approach local agencies without the fear of being detained or deported. Immigrants who fear deportation may be less likely to report crimes, assist in investigations, or cooperate with law enforcement.

Prohibiting non-cooperation policies that may target “suspected undocumented persons” also put immigrants at risk of deportation and family separation, harming not only the individuals affected but also the safety and wellbeing of the community as a whole. The proposed legislation will also have negative economic impacts by compromising the important contributions of the immigrant population to the Minnesota economy. A recent report by the Minnesota Chamber Foundation has found that “nearly 60% of the state’s total labor force and employment growth came from foreign-born workers from 2019-2023” and also that “Minnesota’s foreign-born population is becoming more highly educated, skilled and entrepreneurial, which could spur future innovation and productivity.”<sup>1</sup>

Immigration non-cooperation policies that create a separation between local police work and federal immigration enforcement, contribute to the public safety and wellbeing for all Minnesotans. I urge you to carefully reconsider any steps that might prohibit the immigration non-cooperation ordinances and policies. It is crucial that we protect the rights of all Minnesotans, regardless of immigration status, and prioritize the safety and wellbeing of every member of our communities. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I trust that you will make the right decision in preserving policies that protect the vulnerable and promote a safer Minnesota.

Respectfully,

Rosa Tock | Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> The economic contributions of New Americans in Minnesota (2025) <https://www.mnchamber.com/economic-contributions-new-americans-minnesota-february-2025>