



January 10, 2023

Representative Frank Hornstein  
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee  
563 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Hornstein and House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee Members:

The Minnesota Budget Project urges you to support House File 4, which would allow Minnesotans to access driver's licenses regardless of their immigration status. This bill would advance the economic success of our state, and recognize and support the contributions of immigrants who call Minnesota their home and are working, learning, and living in our communities.

For a large number of Minnesotans, the daily activities we do to support our families -- like getting to work, dropping children off at school, or buying groceries -- require driving. For about 81,000 Minnesotans, doing these basic activities in a context in which they or their family members do not have a driver's license risks potentially life-altering consequences, including families being separated and losing their livelihoods.

Allowing all Minnesotans the ability to acquire driver's licenses is also a crucial step in building a more equitable and prosperous economy. Especially in the midst of such a tight labor market, Minnesota increasingly relies on all members of our communities being able to fill critical jobs, which often requires having a driver's license. Enacting House File 4 would mean more Minnesotans could gain a driver's license, and as a result would have more ability to fill a broader range of shifts and job opportunities. The resulting increase in earnings for these Minnesotans newly eligible for driver's licenses would also create a boost in consumer spending that's good for our local economies.

Please support House File 4 so our immigrant neighbors can more fully and safely participate in our communities and economy. Please contact Clark Goldenrod ([cgoldenrod@mnbudgetproject.org](mailto:cgoldenrod@mnbudgetproject.org) or 651-757-3071) if there is any additional information we can provide.

Sincerely,

Clark Goldenrod  
Deputy Director

*The Minnesota Budget Project, an initiative of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, identifies and promotes public policies so that economic security is available to all Minnesotans, regardless of who they are or where they live.*

Cc: Members, Minnesota House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee