



1/9/23

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

I write today in support of HF 42 as it comes before your committee.

The North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters have been at the forefront of countering the practice in construction of wage theft, construction industry tax fraud, and the business model that allows employers to hurt workers and communities with exploitative practices. A part of that business model has included labor trafficking as a recent case in Hennepin County showed.

During the prosecution of that case, we learned that while our state takes the issue of sex trafficking seriously, the definition of labor trafficking is not as clear, allowing for it to be viewed differently by the courts. We believe that this bill makes necessary changes to the definition of labor trafficking that will bring it more in line with the federal definition. Furthermore, we believe that the seriousness of the crime should allow that the punishment of labor trafficking be treated similarly as the horrendous crime of sex trafficking.

The Regional Council of Carpenters continues to see serious allegations of wage theft in the construction industry. We applaud the legislature and state agencies who are taking this issue on aggressively. I want to thank Rep. Feist for her efforts to make much-needed changes to the state law surrounding labor trafficking and for working with stakeholders on this bill. We strongly support HF 42.

Fraternally,

Adam Duinick  
Director of Government Affairs  
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

Cc: Governor Tim Walz  
House Speaker Melissa Hortman  
House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth