

I am writing to you about why I oppose the HF 16 bill to stop the protections for the undocumented residents that are in place for our cities and counties and other agencies in the state of Minnesota. We have approximately 90,000 undocumented residents in Minnesota according to the Pew Research of 2022 statistics. The large majority are hard working and contributing to our communities.

As a member of a Central Minneapolis church where the neighborhood has a higher immigrant population than other areas of the city, the ability for our neighbors and community to go to work, children to go to school, families to shop for groceries and children to simply play in city parks has been frozen with fear of the threat of deportation. The city and county protections our undocumented neighbors have that are helping them support their families, buy their groceries and simply have their children go to school or play outside will be taken away if HF 16 bill is passed into law.

As a registered public health nurse, the passage of this bill would further create more fear and barriers for adults and children seeking the health care they need including vaccines. We as a city and state could be in a public health crisis without a significant percentage of our residents getting vaccines. Do we want a Measles outbreak here? This is what we are in greater risk of having if we pass HF 16. These neighbors are contributing members to our city and deserve to live without fear as their constant companion. This fear would be elevated if this bill passed. This bill would cause harm to our undocumented residents who are helping us and not harming us. In summary, this HF 16 bill if passed would cause harm by

1. Undocumented residents not going to get health care and vaccines out of fear of deportation . This could cause a public health crisis including a measles outbreak like Texas has had.

2. The absence of our undocumented neighbors would cause economic loss to all of us in the city and many businesses may have to close due to not enough staff to safely operate.

3. The children and US citizens of undocumented residents will have their education disrupted and many families will keep their children home out of fear. Access to free public education is crucial for stability, better jobs and understanding of how to live in the United States as a productive citizen.

4. A drop in sales and the economy as a significant percent of the population are not out working, shopping and eating locally.

If I could be there personally on Wednesday March 12th at 3 PM for this hearing I would. I am visiting family in Georgia.

A concerned resident of Minneapolis and Registered Public Health Nurse.

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