

April 24, 2023

Minnesota Legislature  
597 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF2369 & SF2319

Dear Representative Hassan, Representative Noor, and Senator Fateh,

Rideshare is a critical component of Minnesota's economy and transportation infrastructure, complementing our public transit systems and connecting communities. However, two bills now in the legislature put this important transportation option at risk and deserve careful deliberation and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders. We are asking you to keep rideshare affordable and not to advance HF2369 or SF2319 without further study.

Tens of thousands of Minnesotans rely on rideshare as an affordable transportation option or valuable earning opportunity. In the Twin Cities, rideshare has helped alleviate transportation deserts in low-income areas and removed barriers for access to healthcare, employment, and essential services. For example, 55% of Lyft rides in the Twin Cities start or end in low-income areas, and the average household income of Lyft riders last year was \$64,000, well below the state median of \$77,000. Additionally, 86% of riders say that Lyft increases access to transportation, 28% of Lyft riders do not have a vehicle, and 42% use the Lyft platform to access public transportation.

It is projected that these proposals could increase the average rideshare fare by 2.5 to 4 times. It's estimated that a Lyft ride from downtown Minneapolis to downtown St Paul could increase from \$17 to more than \$40. Not only would this make rideshare far too expensive for the majority of Minnesotans who rely on it today, it would also harm drivers—61% of whom are from communities of color—by reducing demand for rides. This legislation could even result in rideshare companies departing Minnesota, leaving both riders and drivers with fewer options for getting around town or earning income.

We stand with Lyft and the vast majority of drivers who are advocating to reform labor laws, to create the ability to provide benefits like guaranteed earning minimums and other protections, along with the on-demand flexibility and independence that drivers depend on. However, as states like Washington have proven, this can be accomplished by bringing all stakeholders

together. Models like Washington show that lawmakers can create these reforms without destroying the valuable earning opportunity or affordable transportation option that rideshare represents. We respectfully request that the legislature not advance these bills without reaching a common sense and data-grounded resolution with all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Brett Buckner, Managing Director, OneMN.org

Laura Trujilo, Head of School, Montessori American Indian Childcare Center

Jessica Mathias, Executive Director, Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless

Grace Waltz, Vice President of Public Policy, Minneapolis Regional Chamber

Lynn Noren, President, Rise

Ayantú Gemeda, Resident, City of Blaine

Arfasse Gemeda, Resident, City of Minneapolis



**OneMN.org**



CC:

Governor Walz

Senator Bobby Champion

Senator Latz

Senator Oumou

Senator Limmer

Senator Carlson

Senator Eichorn

Senator Howe

Senator Kreun

Senator Seeberger

Senator Pappas

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Representative Stephenson