

I am writing to speak out against HF 16. This bill would cause intense harm to people who are committed to leading productive lives and raising families here in Minnesota. As a retiree, I volunteer in an elementary school in which over half of the students and many of the support staff are immigrants. I see the needs of the children, many who have experienced trauma in their home countries. I observe how hard the support staff works to support the education of all the children as well to support their own families.

As a volunteer, I also teach English as a Second Language to adult immigrants. These students manage to fit English classes into their challenging lives--working many hours and taking care of their families. Their kindness and gratitude overwhelm me.

As a homeowner in Minneapolis, I also depend on the immigrants who deliver my daily newspaper and who I hire for home repairs.

This bill would have immigrants living in constant fear and erode their trust in government officials and community resources. Many have fled horrible conditions in their home countries.

I urge you to vote against HF 16. We need these people and they deserve to feel safe here.

Sincerely,

Lyn Rabinovitch