

To: House Public Safety Committee

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Re: HF 772

To: Whom it May Concern,

My name is Kyle Lipinski; I am a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. I currently serve as the clinical supervisor of a substance use program that works with immigrants from Southeast Asia. I am writing to express the ways in which the shift in rhetoric around immigration enforcement has already harmed by clients, as well as state that I believe that HF772 would increase risks to everyone's safety in the state of Minnesota.

Since the inauguration, my clients reported an increase in mental health symptoms and demonstrated increased hesitancy to relay on emergency services. I have seen the effects of just talking about bills that require immigration and customs enforcement to be notified when a crime occur. One client a victim of domestic violence and sexual assault refused to contact law enforcement out of fear that ICE would come to arrest the perpetrator and everyone else in the apartment. They believed that once immigration was notified about the incident, the entire apartment building would be at risk of enforcement and deportation. In addition to refusing police assistance, this person in turn also refused medical care feeling as though the hospital was an unsafe place for an immigrant, even one with legal status in the United States.

I work with many individuals, who are struggling with substance use disorders. A number of my clients in their return to use has cited conversations around the increased presence of ICE in courthouses. They equate deportation with death, and feel as though there is no chance of recovery in a world that hates them.

I urge you to consider the collateral consequences of this bill. Individuals will be afraid to go to court to file for orders of protection, divorce or engage in everyday services.

I have already seen the damage that has been done by rumors of ICE enforcement in combination with the courts and law enforcement. I fear that passing this law will lead to an increase in harm in all of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Lipinski', written in a cursive style.

Kyle Lipinski, MSS LADC, LPCC, CBIS  
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Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (License Number: 305060)  
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