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January 10, 2023

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Dear Committee Members and Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the revisions to HF 42.

I have worked with youth experiencing homelessness and those who have been victims of sex trafficking for over 20 years with the last 10 of them at The Link. The Link is a nonprofit based in north Minneapolis that provides a continuum of services, street outreach, emergency shelter and housing for youth and young families who are experiencing homelessness, have been victims of sex trafficking and/or who are involved in the juvenile justice or foster care system.

As an organization that works with victims of trafficking we strongly support the revisions that are being proposed through HF 42. Labor trafficking is a serious issue in our state and one that far too often goes unseen and the victims are not able to receive the support and justice that they deserve.

The proposed revisions in HF 42 would provide an opportunity to make our state labor trafficking law easier to use by removing confusing language around the "status and condition of a debtor", replacing "blackmail" with "reputational harm" and providing context to "use or abuse of a legal process". It would also expand the kinds of harm that labor trafficking does to be more accurate – to include "bodily, psychological, economic and reputational harm". Last but not least it would include three levels of seriousness for sentencing based on the harm experienced by the victim.

By making these changes to the labor trafficking law it would hopefully help us to prosecute more traffickers, help support more victims and work towards the overall goal of reducing labor trafficking in our state.

Thank you for your consideration and support. If you have any questions I can be reached at bholger@thelinkmn.org or 612-636-4260.

Sincerely,

Beth Holger, CEO

