



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
of Minnesota

March 13, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, House Health Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and Chair Liebling,

I write on behalf of the International Institute of Minnesota is in strong support of Senate File 2269/House File 2505, which will provide badly needed funds to help victims of labor trafficking.

The International Institute of Minnesota has an Anti-Human Trafficking Program which provides case management to victims of trafficking, including labor trafficking. Though we are able to provide some financial assistance, it is never enough. We are unable to meet all the needs of our clients, who are in incredible need of assistance and stabilization. This bill would help to meet the needs of our clients. I was recently hired as the Immigration Services Attorney at the International Institute and will be providing immigration services to victims of trafficking.

Human trafficking is a scourge on our state, and we as Minnesotans should commit to eliminating it in all of its forms. We applaud the efforts we have seen directed at holding both labor and sex traffickers accountable for their crimes. Ensuring that there is adequate support and help for the victims of these criminals is also a necessary piece of the puzzle. Victims of trafficking are often the most vulnerable amongst us, and deserve the helping hand this bill would help provide.

In closing, I encourage your support for SF2269/HF2505 and appreciate your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Rachel Kohler
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