## **Raymond Dehn**

**State Representative** 

District 59B Minneapolis



## Minnesota House of Representatives

Karen Clark State Representative District 62A Minneapolis

May 26, 2017

Dear Governor, Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith,

We are writing to inform you that since 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 23, we have been refusing food to protest discriminatory language in HF 470/SF 1098. As you know, HF 470, the Public Safety bill, contains a rulemaking provision which would make it nearly impossible for undocumented Minnesotans to get drivers licenses.

We are striking in solidarity with those whose survival is endangered by this legislation. We are joining the thousands of Minnesota immigrants and undocumented workers in their recent requests to meet with and be heard by their Governor. As you know, these Minnesota workers, their families, and even their employers have been organizing for over 10 years to have authorized access to driver's licenses. Several attempts to pass such legislation has failed the Minnesota House, though it has passed the MN Senate three times in the last three years.

As this 2017 legislative session progressed, we became increasingly fearful for workers, communities of color and indigenous communities and our immigrants and undocumented neighbors. We all know that they risk cruel and unexpected deportation that splits apart Minnesota families every day, and any day, if and when they drive a vehicle without having access to a MN driver's license. In the last week at the Capitol, these Minnesotans have joined together as workers, faith communities, and neighbors to try to prevent this restrictive legislation from being passed--or to at least earn your veto of the public safety bill in which it was inserted. As expected however, the anti-worker, anti-immigrant majorities in the House and Senate have passed this dangerous legislation awaiting your signature or veto.

For these urgent reasons, we have committed to not end our food strike until you, Governor Dayton, agree to at least meet with this broad coalition of dedicated and honorable Minnesotans.

With respect and in solidarity,

Rep. Raymond Dehn State Representative Minneapolis, District 59A Rep. Karen Clark State Representative Minneapolis, District 62A