



March 13, 2025

TO: Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee

RE: Opposition to HF 16 (Rymer)--Immigration law enforcement noncooperation ordinances and policies prohibited, use of immigration-related data provided, and county attorneys required to notify federal immigration authorities when an undocumented person is arrested for a crime of violence

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

On behalf of our 841 member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) respectfully opposes HF 16, a bill that prohibits state and local units of government from prohibiting or restricting their employees from sharing immigration data with federal authorities and preempts local ordinances, regulations, and policies that limit or prohibit government employees from communicating with federal officials about the immigration status of individuals or cooperating with federal officials in immigration enforcement. Both provisions unnecessarily interfere with local decision-making authority.

This legislation threatens to compromise good relationships between city officials and immigrant communities. Local law enforcement agencies work cooperatively on a regular basis with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while recognizing that immigration enforcement is primarily the federal government's responsibility. Local law enforcement agencies statewide depend upon trust-based relationships within immigrant communities to solve crimes and implement community policing strategies that promote public safety. Passage of HF 16 would erode this trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Finn'.

Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director