

STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Governor Tim Walz Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

May 25, 2023

The Honorable Melissa Hortman Speaker of the House of Representatives 463 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Hortman:

Rideshare drivers deserve safe working conditions and fair wages, and I am committed to finding solutions to these issues that balance the interests of all Minnesotans, drivers and riders alike. However, House File 2369 is not the right bill to achieve these goals and is simply not ready to be codified in Minnesota law. For these reasons, I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 65, House File 2369, a bill related to transportation network company (TNC) drivers.

This bill could make Minnesota one of the most expensive states in the country for rideshare, potentially putting us on par with the cost of rides in New York City and Seattle—cities with dramatically higher costs of living than Minnesota. Without objective, Minnesota-specific data, we do not have a clear understanding of the impacts on riders, drivers, and rideshare companies. And without a better understanding of these impacts, it would be imprudent to dramatically raise the cost of rideshares, especially for low-income Minnesotans, those in the disability community who depend on rideshares for independence, people who use rideshare for medical transportation or to get to work, Minnesotans without cars, and Minnesotans who simply need a safe ride home at night.

Moreover, disability advocates, anti-violence organizations, and organizations representing seniors, childcare centers, and local governments have all raised significant concerns about the impact of this bill. Those groups are united in their concern about how increased rideshare rates will limit, and potentially eliminate, needed transportation options for vulnerable communities. With public transportation options not uniformly available to all Minnesotans, it is imperative to maintain current affordable, accessible rideshare service options.

I have spent my career fighting for fair wages and safe working conditions for workers, and I will continue to work with drivers, riders, and rideshare companies to address the concerns that this bill sought to address. Today I will issue an executive order to bring together legislators, drivers, rideshare companies, members of the disability community, labor, riders, and others to continue working on this important topic and issue recommendations for the next legislative session.

I look forward to working with the legislature to develop solutions that deliver on the promise of fair compensation and safe working conditions for drivers while still providing affordable transportation options for Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

nul Tim Walz

Governor

cc:

Senator Kari Dziedzic, Senate Majority Leader Senator Mark Johnson, Senate Minority Leader Senator Bobby Joe Champion, President of the Senate Senator Omar Fateh, Chief Senate Author Representative Lisa Demuth, House Minority Leader Representative Hodan Hassan, Chief House Author The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State Mr. Tom Bottern, Secretary of the Senate Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Mr. Ryan Inman, Revisor of Statutes