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TO: Senate Committee on Government Operations, Labor, and Economic Development
FROM: Kacy Kostiuk, Director, Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
DATE: March 3, 2027
RE: Comments in Support of Assembly Bill 759

Dear Chair Feyen and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Kacy Kostiuk. I'm director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, which is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We bring ELCA Lutheran voices to statewide issues and engage in advocacy for policies that promote peace, justice, and care for creation.

I am here to testify in **support of Assembly Bill 759**. As you know, this bill would make it possible for participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to obtain the professional licenses needed to work in fields such as nursing, plumbing, teaching, and other essential professions.

The ELCA recognizes DACA recipients to be incredible contributors to our congregations and communities. Currently, DACA recipients who have completed the education and training required for high-demand professions remain unable to take the final step into those fields because they cannot obtain licensure in Wisconsin. Allowing qualified individuals to receive these licenses is a practical workforce solution – ensuring that people who have the skills and credentials can work in and for Wisconsin communities.

Across our state, employers in multiple sectors are facing workforce shortages. Providing licensure pathways for DACA recipients would help address these shortages by allowing trained and motivated individuals who grew up here and consider the U.S. their home the opportunity to fill critical roles in healthcare, the trades, education, and other fields. Multiple other states – including several of our neighboring states – already allow access to professional licenses. Without action, Wisconsin risks losing talent to these states, rather than keeping them here to strengthen and contribute to our communities.

Assembly Bill 759 is a practical measure that aligns Wisconsin with best practices and supports all residents in Wisconsin. We thank the authors of this bill for their thoughtful collaboration and thank you for scheduling a hearing for this bill. We strongly urge support for AB-759. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Kacy Kostiuk
Director, Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW)