

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Dorimar Cabrera and I reside in legislative district 59B. I am writing against restricting the paid sick and safe days currently guaranteed to all workers in Minnesota.

I am one of thousands of community members activated by TakeAction Minnesota in support of paid sick and safe days in 2023, and have been organizing with them ever since. I was so excited when paid sick and safe days passed statewide. I know families, including mine, that need these guaranteed paid sick days in order to care for their babies, children, elderly parents, or other relatives. When a child gets sick or has an emergency, parents and caregivers need the flexibility to take time off without worrying about losing income or their job.

I started receiving paid sick days after the law passed in 2023, and it made all the difference in the world. I had to take time off to quarantine with my children when they had COVID-19, and if I had to take that time unpaid, I would not have been able to pay rent. The peace of mind knowing I could take care of my sick children, keep them quarantined and the rest of the community safe, and still pay bills was huge.

Currently, I am in college full-time (thanks to North Star Promise funds) and also working 15 hours a week. If you restrict paid sick and safe days to exclude workers like me, I would be one round of norovirus away from not being able to pay all my bills. Paid sick days for part-time workers is the difference between me staying on a path to higher wages, a higher tax bracket, employer-paid health care, and greater stability for myself and my children – or not.

Please protect paid sick and safe days for all Minnesota workers, and vote against any restrictions to the current protections.

Dorimar Cabrera,  
Legislative District 59B