

April 6, 2021

Representative Mohamud Noor
Chair, House Workforce Committee
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Noor and members of the House Workforce Committee:

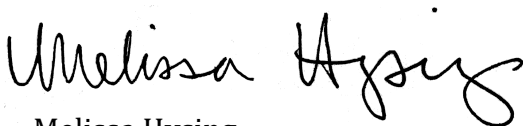
I am writing to express our strong support of the DE amendment to the House Workforce omnibus bill. This amendment prioritizes the needs of working people hardest hit by the pandemic, including:

- A Paid Family and Medical Leave social insurance program providing job protection and partial wage replacement for workers taking up to 12 weeks of leave to care for their own or a loved one's serious medical condition or to bond with a new child.
- Repeal of the law excluding high school students from eligibility for UI.
- Ending the exclusion of hourly school employees from eligibility for UI.
- Continued waiver of the one-week nonpayable waiting period to access UI benefits until September 4, 2021.
- Continuing UI eligibility for a leave of absence due to COVID-19 until September 4, 2021.

This pandemic has made it clearer than ever that working people need expanded access to unemployment benefits and paid leave to take care of themselves, their loved ones, and to protect public health.

If the DE amendment is adopted, we recommend a "yes" vote on HF 1382.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director

