



African American Leadership Forum

SUPPORT FOR HF 2 – PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

February 2, 2023

Chair Dave Pinto

Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

200 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Pinto and Committee Members:

The African American Leadership Forum (AALF) is a movement of more than 5,000 African American leaders, institutions, allies, and systems that come together to collaborate and champion solutions that improve the lives and experience of African Americans in Minnesota. For 15 years, AALF Twin Cities has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

The African American Leadership Forum expresses its strong support for HF 2: Paid Family and Medical Leave. Through AALF's engagement on employment disparities in Black communities, it became clear that a strong quality of life for families includes support from employers when one is navigating health events, whether it is pregnancy or medical issues. In addition, it is important that an employee can take care of family members and loved ones without worrying about losing necessary income. Expanding paid family and medical leave will serve Black Minnesotans in tangible ways, not just in their immediate health needs, but long-term to close the racial wealth gap that exists in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and we ask for your support of HF 2.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones

Managing Director, Public Policy

African American Leadership Forum