



February 5, 2023

Governor Tim Walz
Minnesota Senate & House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Governor Tim Walz and
Members of the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives,

We, the undersigned Brainerd Lakes Area businesses and organizations, respectfully OPPOSE the proposed mandatory paid leave program outlined in Minnesota House File 2 and Senate File 2.

In response to widespread workforce shortages, Minnesota employers have boosted wages and benefits in order to compete for talent in the nation's tightest labor market. This includes increasing paid time off for vacations, medical leave and parental leave. Because our teams are like family, we often go above and beyond to take care of employees who face emergency situations.

Under the current legislative proposals, all employers would be required to allow for up to 24 weeks of paid time off per year (12 weeks of paid medical leave and 12 weeks of paid family leave). This drastically exceeds most benefit packages and provides an incentive for fraudulent claims.

With COVID forcing workers to the sidelines, small businesses and nonprofit organizations are already operating with skeleton crews. Losing employees to extended leaves of absence would place even greater hardships on our ability to keep our doors open. There are simply not enough temporary workers to backfill those open jobs.

Finally, we have serious concerns over the long-term costs of such a program. Last year's financial estimate was a massive \$1.7 billion for the program's first two years, which would require raising our payroll taxes and launching a new state agency. To our knowledge, the true costs have not been calculated or shared publicly.

If enacted in its current form, Minnesota would have the most expensive and expansive paid leave mandates in the country, placing us at a competitive disadvantage with companies in other states. We strongly urge you to oppose these bills and search for fresh solutions that do not unfairly punish our small businesses and organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt".

Matt Kilian, President | Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce

These 158 Brainerd Lakes businesses and nonprofit organizations oppose Minnesota HF-2 and SF-2.

66 Marine North
Above & Beyond Homes
ADA Inc
Adam's Pest Control, Inc.
Advantage Seamless Gutters
Allegra Marketing-Print-Mail
American National Bank of Minnesota
American Peat Technology
AmericInn Lodge & Suites
Anderson Brothers Construction Company of Brainerd
Anderson Cleaners
Andy's Crosslake
Angell Team - Coldwell Banker
ATEK Access Technologies
Avantech
AxisNorth Solutions, Inc.
B and B Farmco
Bauhinia Inc
Baxter Insurance Group of Agents
Benefit Innovations
Bills Gun Shop and Range
BlueWave Technologies, Inc.
Borden, Steinbauer, Krueger & Knudson PA
Boyd Lodge
Brainerd American Legion
Brainerd Animal Hospital
Brainerd Dispatch
Brainerd Floral
Brainerd General Rental
Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today
Brainerd Lakes Chamber
Brainerd Sports & Marine
Brandl Motors
Breezy Point Resort
Camp Holiday Resort & Campground
Campfire Bay Resort
Carlton Construction
Central Choice Financial
Christ Lutheran Church
Close Converse
Clow Stamping Company, Inc.
Copper Cat Escape Games
Cragun's Resort
Creative Living Medical, Inc.
Crosslake Ace Hardware
Crosslake Chamber
Crosslake Coffee Inc
Crystal Cleaners Inc
Culver's
Curated Closet
Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
Deerwood Bank
Diane K Dubej CPA
Dotty Brothers Construction, Inc.
Elite Sleep Solutions, LLC
First National Bank North
First National Insurance Services
GEEK2GO, LLC
GMR Ventures
Good Neighbor Home Health Care
Greater Lakes Assoc of Realtors®
Greenforest Recycling Resources
GrowthZone, LLC
GuidePoint Pharmacy
Gull Four Seasons Resort
Happy Dancing Turtle
Hilmerson Motors LLC
Hilmerson Sports Center
Hollco, Inc
Home Instead
Hubbard Radio - Brainerd
Hunt Utilities Group, LLC
Hunts Point Gun Club
Hy-Tec Construction
Interfaith Volunteers
J. Hanson Real Estate Group
Jim's Electric Co., Inc.
Johnson Locating Service, Inc.
Just for Kix
Kavanaugh's Resort
Key Wellness PLLC
Lake Area Docks & Lifts
Lakes Area Eyecare
Lakes Area Surveying
Lakes Jam II LLC
Landsburg Landscape Nursery
Lemieux Wealth Strategies, LLC
Lexington Manufacturing
LINDAR Corporation
Lonesome Cottage Furniture Company
Madden's Resort
MaxBotix Inc
Mickey's Pizza & Subs
Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union
Midwest Family Eye Center, PA
Mike's Electric of Crosslake
Minnesota Business Finance Corp
Minnesota Cleaning Solutions
MN Quality Enterprises LLC
MN Traders Co
MRlequip.com, LLC
My Neighbor to Love Coalition
Nathan D Talbot
Nelson-Doran Funeral Home
Neumann Construction
Niemeyer's Rugged River Resort
Nisswa Chamber of Commerce
Ocelco, Inc.
Party Time Rental, Inc.
Paul Bunyan Land, LLC
PEK Consulting Inc
Penmac Staffing Services, Inc
Pequot Lakes Animal Hospital
Pequot Lakes Chamber
Pequot Manufacturing
Pine River State Bank
Pine Shadows, Inc.
PleasureLand RV
Port Group Homes
Pure Air Wellness L.L.C.
Quality Fabricating
Radtke Service LLC
Red Ribbon Consulting, LLC
Resilient Properties Management
RiverWood Bank
Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort
S & R Quisberg Inc.
Safari North Wildlife Park
Salon Couture
Seafood Markets, LTD.
Security & Fire Partners, Inc.
Silverstrand
Snarky Loon Brewing
Soldner Business Services, LLC
Stern Companies, Inc.
Stonemark Land Surveying
TCBX
The Outpost
The Smokestack BBQ Supply Store
The Tee Hive
The Therapist, PLC
The Title Team / Noble Escrow
The Woods, LLC
Timber Ridge Electric
Trinity Business Partners Inc
Tri-Ven
Tudor Rose
Up North Inc/Sullivans Resort & Campground
Upper Cullen Resort
Vision Electrical Services
Waste Partners
Wendel Properties, LLC
Wes Hanson Builders
Wessex
Widseth
Woodlore Cider
Woods to Water Real Estate