



**Re: House File 2921 (Wazlawik)**

February 16, 2022

Dear Members of the House Workforce and Business Development Committee,

On behalf of thousands of Main Street employers, we write to express concern with the paid leave mandate included in House File 2921.

Jury duty is a civic responsibility – a task bestowed upon citizens by the government – that ensures the right to a fair trial enshrined in the United States and Minnesota Constitutions. Jury service is a noble pursuit but is unrelated to an individual’s employment.

While we appreciate the exemption for employers with fewer than 50 employees, HF 2921 unfairly shifts compensation for fulfilling this civic responsibility from the government to private employers. This is out of step with current practice in most states and federal courts, where jurors are paid \$50 per day for the first ten days of a trial and \$60 per day thereafter.

Employers bear the cost of replacing a worker who is serving on a jury. While many employers already voluntarily provide paid leave for this purpose, the government should bear the cost of compensating jurors for fulfilling their civic responsibility.

We urge you to reconsider this mandate and make any changes to juror compensation using existing public funds.

Sincerely,

John Reynolds  
Minnesota State Director  
National Federation of Independent Business

Jamie Pfuhl  
President  
Minnesota Grocers Association

Lauryn Schothorst  
Director, Workplace Management and Workforce Development Policy  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce