

Rep. Ginny Klevorn
Chair
State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee
851 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Klevorn and Committee Members

As a member of the Burnsville City Council, I am writing to share my support for House File 1213.

Like many Minnesota businesses, suburban cities must compete to recruit and retain high achieving employees to ensure local government is responsive and efficient with taxpayer resources.

In theory, capping compensation of municipal employees should set a level playing field among cities on recruiting and retaining employees. However, in practice, it is a total failure.

Cities and Counties are currently the only units of government with salary limits set by the State. For instance, school superintendents do not have a cap on their compensation. Furthermore, surrounding states do not have a cap on compensation.

Over the last few years, Burnsville has had to hire several leadership positions including City Manager and Chief of Police.

It can be difficult to find the right candidate for the job. Finding qualified candidates for leadership positions can be frustrating and downright difficult. In addition, a burden on our budget and the taxpayers.

One of the ways to prevent spending significant taxpayer resources on finding qualified workers is adequately compensating current employees to incentivize them to stay.

Unfortunately, when it comes to our top staff, our hands are tied to ensure we are paying a competitive wage with above average benefits.

I urge your support of lifting the cap on compensation and allowing local control of these important decisions. Local City Council's know their communities the best, and any decisions on compensation should be left to those duly elected to make those decisions.



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