

Letters and Testimony Received
Conference Committee on SF 1832 –
Jobs and Labor Finance and Policy bill
(Updated 5/15/25 12:30pm)

May 13, 2025

Dear Members of the Conference Committee on SF1832,

I am writing to provide the Department of Labor and Industry's comments on the labor provisions of the Omnibus Jobs, Labor, and Economic Development policy and appropriations bill, Senate File 1832.

First, I want to thank Senator McEwen, Representative Pinto and Representative Baker for including several of the Department's priorities in this bill. The Department appreciates and supports the following provisions which are included in both bills:

- Workers' Compensation operating adjustment, which will help combat inflationary costs and enable the Department to maintain the services Minnesotans expect.
- Extension of funding for the single-egress stairway apartment building report, which will allow sufficient time to complete the report.
- Temporary Restraining Orders, which will allow the Department to take swift action to help ensure workplace rights are provided.
- Worker misclassification report. While the Department supports analyzing the costs and impacts of worker misclassification, sufficient funding is necessary, especially to cover the upfront costs of producing the first report. We request that this be funded at \$460,000 in the first year and \$160,000 ongoing. It is also worth noting that the impact of investing in misclassification enforcement, as included in the Governor's budget and the House position, is the most essential investment in combating worker misclassification.

The Department supports the following provisions in the House bill:

- Funding misclassification enforcement, which will help protect workers' access to basic workplace protections such as overtime, minimum wage, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and more as well as level the playing field for law-abiding employers.
- Funding for teacher registered apprenticeship grants, which will create additional pathways into education and help address the teacher shortage. As drafted, with where the word "statewide" is placed on line 19.6, eligibility for a grant would be broad and extend to individual school districts to form registered teacher apprenticeship programs. DLI would prefer an approach that funds statewide or regional programs, specifically programs that have multiple participating school districts. We would prefer not to incentivize multiple, individual district by district programs.

The Department supports the following provisions in the Senate bill:

- General fund operating adjustment, which would help offset inflationary costs and enable the Department to maintain the services Minnesotans expect.
- Construction Codes and Licensing fee alignment proposal which would enable the Department to continue to provide timely and high-quality plan review and inspection services for electrical systems, elevators, plumbing, boilers, and manufactured structures. Including the Construction Codes and Licensing Fee Alignment proposal in the conference committee report is especially important. The Construction Codes and Licensing Division at DLI operates on a fee for service basis, and most units in the Department's proposal have not seen fee increases since 2007. Leaving fees at current levels would result in significant staffing cuts and increased wait times for

critical services like electrical inspections, plumbing inspections, plumbing plan review, boiler inspections, elevator inspections, and inspections of new manufactured homes upon installation. Some of the worst impacts would include:

- Plumbing plan review wait times would increase to a minimum of 15 weeks resulting in significant construction project delays across the state.
- Electrical inspections are currently provided within two days of a request, but without these fee increases staffing cuts would result in delays of two weeks across much of the state and limited availability of virtual inspections.
- Boiler installation and annual safety inspections for in-service boilers, pressure vessels, and boats for hire would face extended delays.
- DLI's administration of HUD manufactured homes program would need to be turned back to the federal government.
- Strengthening mandatory break laws, which creates clear obligations for employers and rights for workers to 15 minutes of rest break time for every four hours worked and a 30-minute meal break for every six hours worked.

The Department has concerns with the following provision in the House bill—the inclusion of language on lines 105.22-105.27 exempting well contractors from plumbing plan review and inspections. The Plumbing Board discussed this language at their meeting on May 12 and voted to issue a letter opposing the language as currently written. The Plumbing Board also voted to include a note in their letter that they would support a version of this language that gave DLI and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) the authority to enter into a delegation agreement, wherein MDH would have clear responsibility for enforcing the plumbing code on this work. DLI is working on a version of this language that conforms to the Plumbing Board recommendation and looks forward to working toward acceptable language.

I would also like to note that, while the Department appreciates several priorities being included by either the House, the Senate, or both, we are concerned about the absence of funding for grants to certified worker organizations to help them carry out their duty to inform nursing home workers of their rights under the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board law from both bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate File 1832. I look forward to working with members of the conference committee.

Sincerely,



Nicole Blissenbach
Commissioner



The Alliance

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
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Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Policy and Finance Conference Committee

95 University Ave West
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 5515

May 14, 2025

Dear Chair Champion, Chair Pinto, and Conference Committee Members,

The Business Resource Collective urges the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Policy and Finance Conference Committee to increase budget funding for the Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) **Small Business Assistance Partnerships program for the 2026–2027 biennium by including an additional \$2 million above base.**

As you move to finalize Minnesota's budget, our small businesses need your support more than ever. The current climate of uncertain tariffs, relentless inflation, and anticipated recession is already stressing business that may not make it through the summer. Small businesses are the backbone of communities across Minnesota. Whether it's rural or urban, these businesses don't just create jobs—they create community for all of us. When they have access to high-quality, culturally responsive technical assistance, they thrive.

That's exactly what the Small Business Assistance Partnerships program provides. This DEED-backed initiative contracts with trusted, community-embedded nonprofits—like our members—to offer free to low-cost, high-quality business development support. These services include professional training, education, subject matter expertise, and technical assistance tailored to each entrepreneur's unique context.

This program works.

In 2023 alone:

- Nearly **16,500 businesses** across Minnesota received support
- More than **20,000 jobs** were created or retained
- Over **8,000 women-owned** businesses and **6,800 BIPOC-owned** businesses were served
- Technical assistance delivered through the program helped leverage **\$158 million** in public and private capital

This program doesn't just work—it delivers. Programs like these are economic infrastructure. They fuel inclusive growth, close equity gaps, and ensure that entrepreneurs in every corner of the state have access to expert guidance and support. **Without a sustained investment, the program faces a \$7.4 million shortfall for the 2026–2027 biennium.** That gap would jeopardize the very ecosystem that makes success possible for so many small businesses. **Right now we are asking for only \$2 million above base to sustain the program.**

We urge you to:

- **Honor the Governor's own [Road Map](#)** to embrace radical investment within the BIPOC small business ecosystem and commit ongoing base funding to this program
- **Recognize its statewide reach**, from rural innovation in Kandiyohi County to urban enterprise in Minneapolis and beyond
- **Invest in what's proven**—a program that returns far more than it costs through job creation, economic mobility, and vibrant community growth

Thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to building a more equitable and prosperous Minnesota. For more information, please contact Charlie Barba-Cook, BRC Coalition Organizer at The Alliance for Metropolitan Stability [charlie@thealliancetc.org].

With gratitude for your time and consideration,

The Business Resource Collective

The Business Resource Collective is a coalition convened by The Alliance of more than 20 cultural and place-based community organizations in the Twin Cities and statewide focused on centering the needs and growth of Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latinx, and African -owned businesses. We envision a Minnesota where thriving BIPOC-owned businesses build and sustain the culture, wealth and economic vitality of our communities.

thealliancetc.org/business-resource-collective



May 14, 2025

Dear Senator Champion, Rep. Baker, Rep. Pinto and Members of the Conference Committee:

I'm writing today to thank you for your leadership and good stewardship as you finalize the upcoming budget which shapes the State's investment into workforce development that positive impacts thousands of job seeking Minnesotans. I firmly believe that diversity in funding streams provides the most flexibility and comprehensive preparation and training options for job seekers. I strongly support the Senate's approach to including direct appropriations in the budget, in addition to the competitive grants offered by DEED.

Hired is a long-standing, stable workforce development nonprofit with strong outcomes. Every day we work to connect jobseekers to employers across the Twin Cities. We holistically support individuals through job coaching, training, and support services. And we deliver prepared workers, more than 2,150 people became employed last year, with an average wage of \$27/hour.

Hired's proposed bill is all about **helping people assemble the skills to land a job and navigate a strong start in their job**. In today's workforce and economy, many of the people we work with face historic, systemic and situational barriers and inequities to not just finding but *sustaining* employment. We have found people need **support connecting to or navigating needed community resources, and support services to address unexpected emergencies or reemerging barriers that could end employment**...very often transportation, housing, childcare and food barriers.

In Hired's career pathway programs, we work directly with employers to co-create the trainings, so graduates are prepared for the job openings employers struggle to fill. Many CEOs in Minnesota share a major impediment to their company's growth is a qualified workforce. Hired helps them tap into communities they are not reaching to create their talent pipeline.

Investing in job training programs like Hired, results in tangible returns for the State: job placements, reduced unemployment, increased tax revenue, and disparity reduction. It creates stability for the workers and employers, keeping Minnesota's economy strong and growing.

Direct appropriations are an important complement to DEED's well-established competitive grants. They are flexible funds providing timely services, supporting a broad range of job seekers, leveraging other competitive workforce grants, all while having high standards leading to fiscal and programmatic accountability.

I respectfully encourage you all as Conference Committee members to support the Senate's position on direct appropriations. I boldly ask that you pass Hired's career pathway bill as it allows so much important training to occur in the high-growth sectors that job seekers want to access so they can earn a family sustaining wage.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information on Hired's bill or to discuss my position on direct appropriations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Brekke".

Julie Brekke
President & CEO

Empowered people & families. A prepared workforce. An inclusive economy.

217 Fifth Avenue North - Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401 · TEL 612-808-9500 · FAX 612-338-1375 · www.hired.org



Coalition of Asian American Leaders

RE: Inclusion of the Coalition of Asian American Leaders in the Jobs and Labor Finance and Policy Bill

May 13, 2025

Dear Chairs and Members of the Jobs and Labor Finance and Policy Conference Committee,

On behalf of our network of 5,800 Asian Minnesotan leaders across the state, we are writing to urge the inclusion of the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) appropriation to support Asian Minnesotan entrepreneurs and small businesses.

We are grateful this strategic investment is included in the Senate Jobs and Economic Development omnibus bill. The appropriation will enable CAAL to scale its high-demand small business program launched in 2022, and supported for the first time with state investments last session. The investment will provide cohorts of approximately 30 Asian Minnesotan small business owners training, technical assistance, and microgrants to grow their enterprise.

CAAL's work in this area is in response to community demand for business support to navigate language barriers, financial institutions, state and local regulations, and an uncertain economic environment. These targeted investments make a significant impact for helping families get out of poverty, build generational wealth, and stimulate local economies.

CAAL offers tailored, 1:1, culturally-appropriate support, particularly for Asian Minnesotan women entrepreneurs and microbusinesses that are not being reached by other organizations. Through our statewide network, CAAL conducts outreach and trainings for entrepreneurs who are not connected to financial institutions, CDFIs, or government programs. Businesses include food and restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores, laundromats, beauty and more.

We have technical expertise serving diverse Asian American ethnicities and managing a time-intensive grant program tailored to serve Minnesotans with limited English proficiency from multiple ethnic backgrounds and in multiple languages. Last year, business applicants included Hmong, Sri Lankan, Cambodian, Korean, Lao, Vietnamese, Filipino entrepreneurs and more.



Coalition of Asian American Leaders

We are deeply concerned about cuts to economic development in the House Labor, Workforce, and Economic Development omnibus bill and urge lawmakers to work together to invest in the needs of our communities and small businesses.

Community-based organizations like CAAL are essential for helping meet the needs of Asian Minnesotan entrepreneurs and are uniquely positioned with established infrastructure and expertise in re-granting funds to help businesses thrive.

Our state and our economy is the strongest when we leverage the full impact of our public sector, nonprofits, workforce, and small businesses. Please include CAAL in the final Conference Committee Report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
ThaoMee Xiong, Executive & Network Director
Coalition of Asian American Leaders



MINNESOTA NURSES ASSOCIATION
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May 13, 2025

Workforce, Labor & Economic Development Policy & Finance Conference Committee
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Conference Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) and the thousands of nurses and healthcare professionals we represent across the state, we thank you for your commitment to serving Minnesota's working families, even in the face of significant fiscal challenges. We recognize that both the House and Senate did their best within their respective budget targets, and while we would have liked to see further progress on several key items, we are grateful for the important steps included in each chamber's proposal. There are provisions in both bills that we strongly support and respectfully urge you to adopt in the final conference committee report.

Support for Senate Provisions: Break Laws

We strongly urge the adoption of the Senate's language on the Break Laws, which ensure legally protected minimum duration for rest and meal breaks for all workers. This legislation affirms our most basic workplace rights: a 15-minute rest break and a 30-minute meal break, with real enforcement by state agencies and meaningful penalties for violations.

Right now, nurses are filing grievance after grievance, only to see hospitals opt to pay out missed breaks rather than properly staff units. When nurses try to report these violations, the current statutory loopholes and lack of enforcement leave them without recourse. Nurses want respect and dignity in the workplace. Nurses and other healthcare workers routinely experience dehydration, cognitive impairment, urinary tract infections, and even kidney issues, all because they are not allowed time to meet basic physical needs. It is not uncommon to work 8, 10, or 12 hours without eating, sitting, or using the restroom. These conditions not only threaten the well-being of healthcare workers but also jeopardize patient safety and lead to burnout. **We urge the House to adopt the Senate's language** to ensure all healthcare workers have the legal right to care for themselves while they care for others.

Support for House Provisions: Misclassification Report Funding

We also urge the Senate to adopt the House's proposal to fund a comprehensive **report on worker misclassification**, particularly concerning travel nurse agencies and the rise of "Uber for Nursing" platforms. We are increasingly concerned that some of these agencies may be circumventing classification laws, eroding worker protections and undermining fair labor standards. This funding will empower the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) to hire the staff necessary to investigate these issues thoroughly and in a timely manner. We strongly encourage the conference committee to ensure this work is properly funded **from the outset**; only then can DLI fully and effectively execute this critical mandate.

Protect Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) and Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)

We urge you to **reject any amendments** that would weaken Minnesota's groundbreaking ESST and PFML laws. These laws have transformed the lives of nurses and workers across the state. If you ask a nurse which piece of legislation has had the most profound impact on them, they will tell you: ESST and PFML.

We are particularly alarmed by the passage of SF 2300 in the Senate, which would **roll back critical 2024 improvements and reintroduce harmful policies that punished workers** for caring for themselves or their families. This includes the 160-hour cap on protected sick time and the division of leave into "protected" and "unprotected" buckets, an overly complicated, legally ambiguous system that opens the door to retaliation and employer abuse. Let us be clear:

- SF 2300 would **create a confusing three-bucket system**, protected sick time, unprotected sick time, and vacation, that disproportionately harms shift workers and reintroduces the very policies that drove nurses away from the profession. Most of our members still have traditional sick and vacation buckets of benefit time, not a one pot of PTO hours.
- Many nurses work 10- or 12-hour shifts and are required to take an entire day off for even brief emergencies. This creates disparity between shift workers, allowing for 20 protected days a year for an 8-hour shift worker but only 13 for a 12-hour shift worker. This will accelerate the depletion of protected hours and penalize workers based on shift length alone.
- Workers should not have to guess which type of sick leave they're using or whether they'll be disciplined for using it.
- All earned sick time should be protected. Rolling ESST back would send a dangerous message: that some workers, or some hours, matter less.

On Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML), MNA nurses oppose any new legislative changes to the program prior to its January 1, 2026, launch date. Despite misinformation from business and industry associations saying the contrary, Minnesota's PFML program is a well-vetted program, one that took labor and advocates more than a decade to pass, and the state (DEED) has proven they are more than ready to implement it when it launches. Despite what corporate interests have been saying this session, Minnesota's PFML program is not far more generous to workers than any other state. Additionally, any changes to definitions of "family" and/or "caregiver" could have catastrophic consequences for thousands of Minnesotans, particularly throughout Greater Minnesota where caregivers are more often chosen family or other confidantes and not only legally recognized familial relatives, creating new negative impacts that will be felt inequitably across different groups and communities. **No changes to PFML are needed this year.**

Despite the tight budget environment, we believe strongly that smart policy and strategic investment can protect Minnesota workers. Both chambers have worked hard and made real progress in this session. We thank you for your dedication and urge you to pass a final bill that reflects Minnesota's proud tradition of leading on worker protections.

Let's continue to make Minnesota a national leader in worker justice.

Sincerely,



Chris Rubesch, RN
President, Minnesota Nurses Association



May 14, 2025

Chairs Champion, Baker, Pinto, and members of the Jobs and Labor Finance and Policy Conference Committee:

As Minnesota's labor federation, we represent hundreds of thousands of union members in the public sector, private sector, and building trades across the state. We want to thank you all for your work in your respective committees to put together a jobs and labor budget to meet the needs of working Minnesotans in these challenging times.

As you know, worker misclassification fraud continues to be a growing problem that occurs in many industries. When employers misclassify workers, they deny those workers all of the rights and benefits associated with employment. This causes significant harm to workers and to law-abiding employers, reduces tax revenue, and strains social safety net programs.

Last year, both the Office of the Legislative Auditor and the Attorney General's Task Force on Worker Misclassification made recommendations to combat this problem. Thanks to the legislature, some of those recommendations were enacted in 2024. The updated statutes strengthen and streamline enforcement of misclassification laws and create an Intergovernmental Misclassification Enforcement Partnership to coordinate enforcement among state agencies.

To carry out the duties in the updated statute, the funding in the **House version of SF 1832 provides DLI with additional FTEs** needed to conduct outreach, handle an uptick in misclassification complaints, and conduct complex investigations (line 20 of the Labor Conference Committee spreadsheet). It is worth noting that these positions are partially offset by additional revenue coming in from enforcement actions (line 59 of the spreadsheet).

The **House version also contains funding for a Misclassification Fraud Impact Report** to estimate the incidence of misclassification by Industry and the impact to workers, taxpayers, and state programs (line 24 of the spreadsheet). This is responsive to recommendations from both OLA and the AG Task Force and will help inform enforcement efforts as well as provide important metrics to policymakers. We believe, however, that this funding should be frontloaded with \$460,000 in FY26-27 and less in the tails since someone will need to be hired to figure out the initial analysis, then cost will be less going forward. While the Senate has placeholder language, we urge adoption of the **House policy language** starting on page R111 of the side-by-side, lines 105.28-107.3 outlining what must be included in the report.

The **Senate version updates the penalties DEED is allowed to assess** for misrepresentation by an employer, among other things, avoid payments to the UI Trust Fund for instances of misclassification. Increasing these penalties from 50% to 100% of benefits not paid is reasonable and should be adopted.

Best regards,



Bernie Burnham
President



Brad Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer

AMERICAN INDIAN OIC



May 12th, 2025

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Dear Members of the Conference Committee on Jobs and Labor,

My name is Dr. Joe Hobot, and I serve as President and CEO of American Indian OIC (AIOIC). I would like to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony for your consideration.

AIOIC is a workforce development and education agency that helps more than 1,200 people each year achieve their education and career goals. On our campus in South Minneapolis or online, AIOIC's participants receive the educational foundation and support needed to move into careers with opportunities for living wages and professional growth. Although we were founded to serve individuals of Native American descent, most of our programs are open to anyone who could benefit from our services. AIOIC's programs are branded with the Dakota word, "Takoda," meaning 'friend to all,' reflecting our commitment to serving all Minnesotans needing support, and the ever-increasing diversity reflected in our client base.

I would like to thank Chair Champion for including a direct appropriation to our organization in the Senate omnibus bill. This appropriation will go directly to workforce development training and support services for our clients and will allow them to gain critical skills needed to get a job and advance their career – all at no cost to the participant. I would also like to express my thanks to both the Senate and House Chairs for maintaining the base appropriation to all Minnesota affiliates of OIC's of America which will also be used to support our clients.

While I appreciate the challenging situation that the House Chairs faced given their target, I would encourage them to work with the Senate conferees to include direct appropriations in the final budget agreement. For over a decade, legislators on both sides of the aisle have recognized the benefits of directly naming workforce training grant recipients. These program dollars have provided nonprofits like ours with the flexibility to develop innovative training programs that are geared towards worker and business needs in our communities. By providing Minnesotans with career development and training, nonprofit organizations are moving workers off government assistance and into full employment and self-support, while ensuring that there are qualified workers available for businesses to hire and grow. This is how we are able to sustain and grow our state's economy well into the future.

Danielle Grant, Chair
Donald J. Flower, Vice Chair
Charles Bolger, Treasurer
Clyde Bellecourt, Founder
Lori Hobot, President & CEO



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AMERICAN INDIAN OIC



At the same time, I recognize there is a growing interest in determining the best way to appropriate limited government dollars. I support the Task Force on Best Legislative Practices for Appropriating Money for Grants which was included in the Senate State and Local Government Finance Bill. This task force will provide a holistic opportunity to examine legislatively named appropriations and determine how and when they can be best utilized to advance the state's goals and support workers and businesses across the state. However, I would encourage members of the committee to continue with the current practice of directly naming grant recipients while this broader examination is taking place.

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I thank the members of the conference committee for their work and look forward to continuing to provide effective workforce training programing and other services that support workers and businesses alike.

Wopila Tanka (A "great thank you" in Lakota) for your attention to this letter.

Joe Hobot, Ed.D.

Sunkmanitu Tanka Se Tokeya Hiyaye (He Leads Like A Wolf)

Descendant of the Hunkpapa Band of the Oceti Sakowin and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

President and CEO

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May 15, 2025

Jobs and Labor Finance and Policy Conference Committee

House: Pinto, Greenman, Frazier, Baker, Zeleznikar, and Mekeland

Senate: Champion, McEwen, Mohamed, Hauschild, Oumou Verbeten, and Draheim

RE: SF 1832

Dear Conference Committee Members,

Thank you to Senator Champion and Representative Frazier for their leadership and support of Big Brothers Big Sisters in Minnesota.

We respectfully urge the conference committee to support the Senate position, which includes a legislative appropriation for Big Brothers Big Sisters. The State of Minnesota's continued investment in our mission has a meaningful and lasting impact on young people, their families, and our communities. Now more than ever, young people need a trusted mentor in their corner—and this support helps make that possible.

The three Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies across Minnesota serve 4,500 young people each year, including more than 2,000 teens through career and future readiness programs. Our evidence-based programs result in improved outcomes for young people, including stronger relationships, enhanced educational success, and increased income over their lifetimes.

Career and future readiness at Big Brothers Big Sisters offers opportunities to build skills and social capital, explore careers, and visit college campuses. We partner closely with the community, including local high schools, colleges, fellow non-profits and employers that offer mentoring, leadership skills, workforce readiness, STEM, and post-secondary access.

Direct legislative appropriations are the most effective way to support the young people served by Big Brothers Big Sisters. For over a decade, the State of Minnesota has invested in our work through this approach—yielding proven, statewide impact with strong transparency and accountability. As a mentoring organization that delivers critical career and future-readiness services, our model doesn't align easily with competitive grant structures. Direct appropriations also provide a level of responsiveness, continuity, and equity that competitive processes often cannot.

Long-Term Impact of Big Brothers Big Sisters

A recent 30-year longitudinal study from researchers at Harvard and the U.S. Department of the Treasury demonstrates the long-term economic impact of our programs:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters-mentored youth are 20% more likely to attend college compared to non-mentored peers;
- They experience a 20% increase in lifetime income compared to non-mentored peers;



Big Brothers Big Sisters®

TWIN CITIES

3110 Washington Avenue N.
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BigsTwinCities.org
651.789.2400 Main Office
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- Big Brothers Big Sisters mentorship closes two-thirds of the socio-economic gap, demonstrating the power of mentorship to foster upward mobility; and
- The investment is paid off in seven years with a high ROI—your investment of \$500,000 over two years results in more than \$10 million in future earnings for youth.

In the end, the study authors note that “The program’s relatively low costs and substantial benefits place it among the most cost-effective interventions of its type to be evaluated.”

We know mentorship builds resilience and helps young people overcome adversity, contributing to a more just and inclusive society. Big Brothers Big Sisters is a trusted champion for youth, harnessing the transformative power of mentorship to change lives.

Thank you for supporting young people in Minnesota. In today’s challenging world, the need for trusted mentors has never been greater—especially as young people navigate their path towards meaningful careers. Support from the State of Minnesota helps ensure they have the encouragement, exposure, and the resources needed to help them succeed.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sukhum
CEO, BBBS Twin Cities

Jackie Johnson
ED, BBBS Central MN

Michelle Redman
ED, BBBS Southern MN



May 14, 2025

Dear Chair Champion, Co-Chairs Baker and Pinto, and Esteemed Members of the Conference Committee:

On behalf of Bolder Options, I am writing to express strong support for the Senate position on SF 1832, particularly the provision that includes direct appropriations for our youth mentoring work. This investment is essential to sustaining and expanding our proven impact on youth and families in the Twin Cities and Rochester.

Bolder Options is a youth development and mentoring organization that serves middle school students ages 10–21 who are at risk of disconnection from school and community. Through structured mentorship, wellness education, and career exploration, we help young people build the skills, confidence, and connections they need to thrive in school, work, and life.

Thanks to funding in the last biennium, we **doubled the number of young people participating** in our mentorship, leadership, and career readiness programming. By supporting our current bill, you are investing in the potential of **more than 500 youth in the Twin Cities and Rochester**—young people who simply need support, opportunity, and guidance to discover and pursue their career goals. With your continued investment, we can **scale our programming** to reach even more youth, faster and more effectively than through any other funding avenue.

We respectfully urge you to adopt the Senate's position favoring **direct appropriations** over competitive grants. Direct appropriations allow for consistent, transparent, and community-specific funding. Competitive grants, by contrast, are often one-size-fits-all and too rigid to support the customized, relationship-based services that make Bolder Options successful. With direct appropriations, we can plan strategically, act responsively, and remain fully accountable to both the state and the communities we serve.

Bolder Options helps cultivate a future workforce that is motivated, focused, and resilient. Our alumni are more likely to stay in school, complete their education, and pursue productive careers—benefiting employers and strengthening Minnesota's economic future. Early intervention through mentoring reduces the likelihood of justice system involvement and increases long-term employability.



A Wilder Research report, *Analyzing the Social Return on Investment of Youth Mentoring Programs*, found that every **\$1 invested in youth mentoring generates \$2.72** in return through reduced public costs and increased economic contributions. At Bolder Options, this return is reflected in our wellness, academic, social emotional, and career skills outcomes that reduce future social costs and build stronger communities across Minnesota.

In conclusion, we urge you to support the Senate's direct appropriation for Bolder Options in SF 1832. With your help, we can continue to grow, innovate, and provide a strong return on the state's investment in our youth. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Minnesota's future.

Please feel free to contact me if we can provide additional information or be a resource in any way.

Sincerely,

Darrell Thompson
President & CEO
Bolder Options
dthompson@bolderoptions.org
612-379-2653



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www.burnsvillemn.gov

May 13, 2025

Minnesota House of Representatives
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

To the Honorable House and Senate Conferees:

On behalf of the City of Burnsville, we are writing to you in support of the continued funding for the HOST Community Economic Development Program in HF 2441.

Burnsville is one of two communities in the metro area that hosts a landfill. This program was established years ago in recognition that the City is taking on the burden of holding waste from the entire region. Landfills are challenging sites for environmental management and sustainability and deprive the city of a significant area that could otherwise generate property tax revenue. By hosting a landfill for the region, the city's property tax base must compensate for that lost area while also managing the negative impacts landfills have on communities.

We are asking the conferees to adopt the House position on the HOST Community Economic Development Program, as defined in Minn. Stat. 116J.548. The House position in HF 2441 proposes to fund the full \$875,000 each year for the program's operations in Article 2, Sec. 1, lines 23.33-24.2. The Senate position in SF 2373 proposes a cut of \$600,000 in FY 26-27 and a cut of \$1,000,000 in FY 28-29, which would be detrimental to the success of the program. We strongly urge you to move forward with the House's position.

We appreciate your consideration to fund this essential program for the Burnsville community. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor

Jennifer Rhode
Deputy City Manager and CFO

equaspace

workspace ■ community asset ■ collective

Dear Chair Champion, Co-Chairs Baker and Pinto, and Conference Committee members:

We understand the fiscal constraints within the current bill and appreciate the difficult decisions before the committee. As the bill moves into conference committee, we respectfully ask you to consider including HF 1638/SF 800 as a direct appropriation. This bill has bi-partisan support.

I write in support of HF 1638/SF 800 because the nonprofit sector plays a vital role in Minnesota's economy—employing 15% of the state's workforce. Nonprofit employees are taxpayers who contribute meaningfully to our state's vitality. This investment delivers a strong return by supporting essential services, fueling economic growth, and creating jobs that complement, not compete with, government efforts.

EquaSpace is a resource hub that supports nonprofit organizations by offering affordable, high-functioning workspaces and essential operational support. We have created a collaborative environment where leaders and teams can share resources, knowledge, and expertise, helping organizations strengthen their operations and achieve their goals more effectively.

By providing proximity to other nonprofits, we create efficiencies that allow small and mid-sized organizations to meet the same standards as larger organizations, despite having fewer resources. EquaSpace offers a range of critical services, including IT support, professional development, and shared meeting spaces, all designed to help nonprofits streamline their operations and better serve their communities.

Importantly, EquaSpace helps reduce the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse by ensuring that leaders and teams have access to the resources they need to comply with local, state, and federal regulations. This enables organizations to maintain accountability, transparency, and efficiency in their work.

Investing in EquaSpace is an investment in the future success of the groups and initiatives that strengthen our state. By providing the support and infrastructure these organizations need, we are helping them fulfill their missions more effectively, create jobs, and contribute to the economic well-being of our communities. Funding EquaSpace will lead to stronger, more sustainable organizations that are equipped to make a meaningful impact across the state.

Thank you for the consideration,



Sarah Clyne, Executive Director

The Honorable Senator Bobbie Joe Champion
The Honorable Representative Dave Pinto
The Honorable Representative Dave Baker

May 14, 2025

Re: SF1832 (Jobs and Labor Finance and Policy bill)

Dear Chairs Champion, Baker, Pinto and members of the Conference Committee

On behalf of the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM), Minnesota Brownfields, Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP), League of Minnesota Cities, and Metro Cities, we are reaching out with concerns about the proposed base budget cuts included in the House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance (Jobs) omnibus bill. In contrast, the Senate's Jobs bill does not make these cuts, and instead preserves the base funding for these key programs.

We acknowledge the challenging budget situation the state is managing, however, our members use the programs in DEED's Business and Community Development portfolio to support the attraction, retention and expansion of businesses that are key to the state's economic vitality. It is therefore concerning to our membership that the House bill cuts the base funding for two key programs across the next two biennium:

- Contaminated Site Cleanup & Investigation Grants - \$1.5 million cut each biennium
- Redevelopment Grant Program - \$2 million cut each biennium

Were these cuts to become law, Minnesota communities would have significantly less resources available to put contaminated and disinvested sites into productive use. More dilapidated and deteriorating structures would remain in communities and the state would lose out on the property tax increases, private investments and job creation and retention this program leverages.

The Redevelopment Grant Program:

The Redevelopment Grant Program is a critical economic development tool. It helps communities with the costs of redeveloping blighted industrial, residential, or commercial sites and putting land back into productive use. This program delivers a tremendous return on investment. Since the program's inception in 1993, it has leveraged almost \$4 billion in non-state investments, created over 12,000 new jobs and retained almost 19,000 jobs, and increased property taxes by over \$60 million. This program is in high demand throughout the state and is slated to run out of funding this year.

Contaminated Site Cleanup & Investigation Grants:

The Contamination Cleanup and Investigation Grant Program helps communities pay for assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites for private or public redevelopment. Grants pay up to 75% of the costs to investigate and clean up polluted sites. Both publicly and privately owned sites with known or suspected soil or groundwater contamination qualify and the program is critical to help communities put sites back into productive use. Since the program's inception in 1995, the program has awarded 149 investigation grants totaling over \$4.67 million and 487 cleanup grants totaling over \$202.36 million statewide.

A recent project completed with both Redevelopment and Clean up Funds: The Hotel Mankato site occupies a 2-acre parcel that was contaminated with petroleum and other contaminants. The site was historically occupied by a hotel and an auto dealership, and was redeveloped into one four-story, 126-room hotel, and one 10-story, 156-room hotel and restaurant, the AC Hotel by Marriot and Element by Westin. The project was awarded \$1.1 million in Redevelopment grant funds and \$330,000 in Clean Up grant funds. The project created 111 jobs, built 282 new hotel rooms, increased the property tax base by \$640,800/yr and leveraged \$81.6 million in private investment. Matching funds were provided by the developer and tax increment financing.

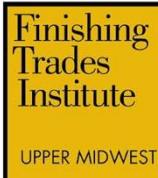
Recent Site Cleanup Funds Example: The city of Minneapolis was awarded \$518,062 in cleanup funds for a 7.87-acre site that was contaminated with petroleum and other contaminants. Historically used for linseed oil processing, the site was redeveloped into a “high finish,” 131,000 square-foot, industrial office warehouse building. Known as the Northeast Business Center, the building is currently occupied by two tenants: CED Greentech Renewables and Kings Road Merchandising Inc. The project has created 50 jobs, retained 60 jobs, increased the property tax base by \$401,875, and leveraged \$18,800,000 in private investment. The required match was paid for by the developer and other grant sources. This project was the winner of the Minnesota Brownfields 2023 Rescape Award for economic impact.

Collectively, our members work every day to support community needs and to make public investments that support good jobs and economic vitality. Funding these programs at the levels needed to sustain this work is critical to the state’s future economic success and we urge the Conference Committee to follow the Senate’s lead and include base funding for these key programs in the final bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cc: Senator McEwen, Senator Mohamed, Senator Hauschild, Senator Oumou Verbeten, Senator Draheim, Representative Greenman, Representative Frazier, Representative Zeleznikar, Representative Mekeland



FINISHING TRADES INSTITUTE

UPPER MIDWEST

FTIUM.edu
651-379-9600
3205 Country Drive, Ste. 150
Little Canada, MN 55117

May 1, 2025

RE: SF2744 (Seeberger)/HF2468 (Nelson)

Greetings,

On behalf of the Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest (FTIUM), we are writing in strong support of SF 744 / HF 2468, legislation aimed at promoting mental health in the construction industry.

Mental illness and suicide are invisible crises in the construction industry that are deadlier than all other workplace accidents in the industry combined. The construction industry has the highest rate of suicide per 100,000 workers of any industry - 3.5 times greater rate of suicide than other professions. In the U.S. 53 out of every 100,000 workers complete suicide annually. There are 5,500 employee suicide completions annually in the U.S. construction industry. This is an average of 15 people each day. In Minnesota this roughly equates to 64 workers completing suicide each year, with perhaps as many as twenty-five times that number, or roughly 1600, making the attempt. This bill makes huge strides towards saving lives and helping Minnesota's skilled trades workers to get the help they need to live long, healthy lives.

The Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest is an educational institution committed to developing professional, certified tradespeople across the Upper Midwest. We offer inclusive, high-quality programming that creates career pathways for a wide range of individuals, from high school students to experienced workers, while fostering strong connections to local employers. This ensures our students and alumni have meaningful support and opportunities throughout their careers.

FTIUM emphasizes the need to support the "whole worker," reflecting FTIUM's deep commitment to providing a well-rounded education for apprentices in the construction industry. As part of our ongoing commitment to the well-being of our students, FTIUM has implemented an employee assistance program (EAP), The FTIUM Care Team, designed to reduce mental health stigma, educate members, and encourage all to seek support. The Care Team offers counseling, responds to crises, provides educational programming, and advocates for apprentices. Additionally, nearly every first-year apprentice, on a voluntary



© 2020

basis, participates in individual assessments for medical health, behavioral health, and social needs. Between these introductions to the Care Team and ongoing education, we have seen the usage rate for our EAP grow to over 60%, where the national rate of usage for EAPs is 2%-4%. Through education, outreach, and a commitment to continuously improving our wholistic model of care, we have been able to intervene not only to save lives but to make lives better.

Our experience with our Care Team leads us to believe strongly in the effectiveness of this approach. We have made huge strides to prevent suicide, treat depression, and treat substance use disorder. For example, in 2025 Q1 alone, the FTIUM Care Team had nine “critical incident responses” involving students in severe psychological distress. Further thirty-four students sought care for behavioral health issues and chemical dependency. These initiatives - while ultimately cost effective for families, employers, and taxpayers - take resources to get up and running. FTIUM believes that SF 744 / HF 2468 will help employers with those costs, ultimately creating a healthier landscape in the construction trades. Because of this great need and the great potential of SF 744 / HF 2468, FTIUM enthusiastically supports its inclusion in the Labor Omnibus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns or for further reference.

Sincerely,



John M. Burcaw
Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Academic Education

Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest
612-615-4588
FTIUM.edu



May 14, 2025

On behalf of the International Institute of Minnesota, I would like to express our strong support for the Senate proposal to fund organizations via direct appropriations. This method of funding allows our programs to secure consistent support to serve our community, and it provides accountability for programs like ours that serve employees and employers throughout the state. Direct appropriations allow us to serve our clients using a model that has proven successful.

The International Institute of Minnesota (the Institute) is a Saint Paul-based nonprofit that helps immigrants and refugees get a strong start in their new life in the United States, as well as continued support throughout their journey to self-sufficiency. This includes services in immigration, refugee resettlement, workforce development, and English language acquisition. Last year, the Institute served 5,709 New Americans from 110 countries.

Our **Medical Careers Pathway** program, for which we have requested a direct appropriation, works with a network of more than 100 employers who rely on our program graduates to fill their open positions. With the heightened demand for skilled healthcare workers, particularly in long-term care, our work is more important than ever. Immigrants are essential to our labor force as our population ages and are particularly critical in healthcare, with immigrants filling more than 20% of direct care healthcare jobs. The high retention rate of our graduates provides continuity of care for long-term patients and reduces the cost of turnover for employers.

The return on investment from our programs is clear: local employers gain high-quality, dedicated workers; New American clients upskill, earn higher wages, and reach economy-building milestones such as purchasing homes or starting small businesses.

The direct appropriation we have requested will allow us to serve 350 individuals in our Medical Careers Pathway. We urge your support for the direct appropriation model of funding. Competitive grants don't always allow unique programs to use their strengths in serving their target populations, often operating under a "one-size-fits-all" model. After 105 years of service, we know our clients well. With a direct appropriation, we can continue to serve New Americans using the proven methods that have resulted in nearly 3,500 graduates employed in the healthcare field at varying levels.

Your investment in the Institute's Medical Careers Pathway will ensure we can meet the needs of both our healthcare system and the individuals striving to build stable, meaningful careers with livable wages. We are happy to provide any additional information that may be helpful in your decision and welcome any questions regarding our work and its impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Graupman".

Jane Graupman
Executive Director
International Institute of Minnesota

REPOWERED

Fair chances for people, planet, and technology.

May 13, 2025

Chair Champion, Co-Chairs Baker and Pinto, and Conference Committee members,

I'm writing today in strong support of the Senate language in **SF 1832**, particularly its use of direct appropriations rather than competitive grants. Repowered's work readiness program is centered on real-world work experience as the foundation for long-term employability, supported by targeted training and wraparound services. Direct appropriations provide the same level of fiscal accountability and transparency as competitive grants, but with the added benefit of efficiency, flexibility, and greater impact. They allow us to allocate resources strategically, serve more individuals effectively, and remain focused on delivering the outcomes the Legislature cares about: job placement, reduced recidivism, and economic mobility.

Repowered's program is designed to be intensive, holistic, and proven to create lasting change for individuals reentering society after incarceration. Participants gain real-world job experience in a full-time experience for up to 18 months, gaining valuable skills across multiple roles—production, logistics, truck operations—and receive the training, support, and mentorship necessary to build a stable, self-sufficient future.

The results speak for themselves:

- **68% graduate with a job** secured
- **Average starting wage at graduation exceeds \$20/hour**, as compared to minimum wage
- **Recidivism rate is under 4%**, compared to the average of over 25%

One of the most compelling testaments to our program's success comes from Joseph Long, owner of Soldier Trucking, who recently hired four of our graduates. In his words: *"I could not be more impressed with all four of my new employees. They are punctual, respectful, eager to learn — and no attitude. We are blessed to have a relationship with Repowered."* Stories like this demonstrate the real-world impact of our approach.

Repowered is **both fiscally responsible and programmatically effective**. With additional funding, we can responsibly grow our program to serve 10–20 more participants annually — individuals who face high barriers to employment and are at increased risk of recidivism. With the right program, they're not returning to the system — **they're becoming reliable employees, taxpayers, and engaged members of their communities**.

This investment will pay dividends for the state: reducing incarceration costs, increasing workforce participation, and strengthening families and neighborhoods.

Thank you for considering our request. We appreciate your support and commitment to second chances and workforce equity.

With sincere thanks,



Heather Walch
CEO, Repowered

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Yang Liu, MD
Minnesota Oncology

Lloyd H. Ketchum, MD
Essentia Cancer Center

Todd Tuttle, MD
University of Minnesota

Executive Director
Amy Lydic, CAE

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am pleased to strongly support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program as outlined in S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As an oncologist practicing at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato and New Prague, Minnesota, and as President of the Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology, I see daily the critical need for enhanced cancer care accessibility in rural regions.

My clinician experiences and roles on the Board of the Minnesota Medical Association have heightened my commitment to advocating for effective cancer care policy, particularly initiatives that improve healthcare equity. The proposed pilot, which provides rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows, directly targets one of our most pressing challenges: addressing the shortage of oncology professionals in underserved rural areas.

This pilot program addresses immediate healthcare gaps and ensures long-term sustainability and community resilience by nurturing local oncology expertise. The economic and social benefits to rural communities will be substantial, making it a powerful model for future policy development in cancer care.

I urge your support of this essential initiative, which represents an impactful investment in Minnesota's healthcare future and the well-being of its rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amrit Singh".

Amrit Singh, MBBS
President, Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology (MSCO)



Lisa Bjerga <lisabjerga@lakewoodhealthsystem.com>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 12:45 PM

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I'm writing to share my full support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program included in S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As CEO of Lakewood Health System, I care deeply about ensuring our rural communities have access to high-quality cancer care, and this proposal is a critical step in tackling the shortage of oncology providers in Greater Minnesota.

Lakewood has a strong history of teaching and mentoring future healthcare providers. Every year, we host two Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP) students from the University of Minnesota Medical School. This hands-on training in a rural setting has not only benefited our patients but has also helped grow our rural provider workforce—many of our current physicians are proud RPAP alumni.

We're now building on that foundation. In collaboration with the University of Minnesota and North Memorial, we're launching a rural Family Practice with Obstetrics Residency Program. Residents will spend their first year at North Memorial and then complete two years of training with us at Lakewood, gaining a deep understanding of what it means to care for rural communities. Programs like this are proven to increase long-term retention of providers in rural areas.

The Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program builds on this model. Offering oncology training in rural settings will help grow a stronger, more sustainable workforce while also improving access to timely, high-quality cancer care—close to home.

I strongly encourage your support of this program. It's not just an investment in training the next generation of providers—it's a meaningful step toward ensuring rural Minnesotans have equitable access to the care they need.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bjerga
Chief Executive Officer
Lakewood Health System



LISA BJERGA
PRESIDENT/CEO
O: 218-894-8352

LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM
49725 County 83 | Staples, MN 56479

Rural Cancer Institute

An Independent Research and Advocacy Organization

Wade Swenson <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Letter of support

1 message

Pritchett, Joshua C., M.D. <Pritchett.Joshua@mayo.edu>
To: Wade Swenson <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 9:07 AM

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am writing to enthusiastically support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F.2921. As an oncologist and researcher at Mayo Clinic Health System dedicated to rural health and remote patient monitoring, I recognize the profound impact this initiative can have on improving oncology care access across Minnesota's rural communities.

In my clinical practice and research, I've seen firsthand the disparities rural patients face, including significant barriers to timely and effective cancer care. This pilot program directly addresses these challenges by training healthcare providers within rural settings by establishing rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows. This experience prepares clinicians to deliver culturally competent and community-focused care and significantly enhances patient outcomes and healthcare sustainability.

Moreover, this pilot has potential economic benefits by retaining healthcare services locally, contributing to the vitality and resilience of rural economies. The model the Rural Cancer Institute envisioned provides a clear pathway to addressing oncology workforce shortages and offers a scalable solution applicable to rural healthcare nationwide.

I would appreciate your support for this vital legislation, which represents a critical investment in Minnesota's future of rural health and oncology care.

Sincerely,

Josh Pritchett, MD

Joshua Pritchett, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Oncology

Mayo Clinic | 200 First Street SW | Rochester, MN 55905 | mayoclinic.org



To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am writing to strongly support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program as proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As the President/CEO of Madelia Health and the Regent for the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), I have seen firsthand the challenges rural communities face in accessing specialized cancer care. This pilot program presents a significant opportunity to address these challenges by expanding oncology training and services to rural Minnesota.

Like many rural healthcare providers, Madelia Health is committed to ensuring our patients receive high-quality care close to home. However, the shortage of oncology specialists in rural areas often forces patients to travel long distances for cancer treatment, causing emotional and financial strain. Establishing rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows will help build a sustainable workforce of oncology professionals who understand the unique needs of rural populations.

This program is not only a health initiative but also an economic one. Rural hospitals like ours can retain patients within their communities by increasing local access to cancer care, supporting local healthcare infrastructure, and creating jobs. Training programs like the one proposed will encourage providers to remain in rural areas, fostering long-term community resilience.

I firmly believe the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot will serve as a model for other states facing similar challenges. I respectfully urge your support for this important initiative to ensure equitable access to cancer care for all Minnesotans, regardless of where they live.

Sincerely,

David F Walz MBA, BSN, RN, CNN, FACHE
President/CEO, Madelia Health
MN Regent, American College of Healthcare Executives



Rural Cancer Institute

An Independent Research and Advocacy Organization

Wade Swenson <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921, which seeks to create rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows in Minnesota.

1 message

Kamboj, Jasmine, M.D. <Kamboj.Jasmine@mayo.edu>
To: "wade@ruralcancer.org" <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 8:25 AM

Wade Swenson, MD, MPH, MBA

Rural Cancer Institute

Rural Oncology Conference - Kansas

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[LinkedIn](#)

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921, which seeks to create rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows in Minnesota. I have practiced in Northern MN, at Bemidji, Sanford Health and could not overemphasize the need of training in rural oncology rotations with its specific challenges. As a practicing oncologist at Mayo Clinic Health System in Northfield and an advisor to the Rural Cancer Institute, I witness firsthand the urgent need for expanding access to quality oncology care in our rural communities. Particularly for oncology, we have almost 20% cancer patients in rural USA but only 10% oncologists practice in Rural USA.

My involvement with the Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), specifically my roles within ASCO's Community of Practice Policy and International Affairs Committee, have reinforced my commitment to initiatives addressing healthcare disparities. The proposed pilot aligns directly with these commitments by strategically placing trainees in underserved rural areas and cultivating a skilled workforce ready to serve these communities long-term.

Beyond clinical impacts, this initiative will significantly enhance rural economies, support local healthcare infrastructures, and ensure equitable cancer care access throughout Minnesota.

The Rural Cancer Institute's innovative approach addresses immediate clinical needs and serves as a scalable model that could inform nationwide rural oncology practices.

I wholeheartedly urge your support for this critical legislation, which represents a meaningful investment in the healthcare future and the economic vitality of Minnesota's rural communities.

Sincerely,

Jasmine

Jasmine Kamboj, MD, FASCO

Oncologist, Mayo Clinic Health System, Northfield, MN

Board Member, Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology

Co-lead, Community of Practice Policy, American Society of Clinical Oncology

Member, International Affairs Committee, American Society of Clinical Oncology

Advisor, Rural Cancer Institute

Host and Editor, "Empowering Oncologists" Podcast, OncoDaily

Editorial Board Member, OncoDaily

Jasmine Kamboj MD FASCO

Senior Associate Consultant

Hematology and Medical Oncology

Northfield Hospital (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

MCHS SEMN/NWWI (Thursday)

Kamboj.jasmine@mayo.edu

Mayo Clinic Health System

March 31, 2025

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am pleased to enthusiastically support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921, which seek to establish specialized rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows in Minnesota. As a healthcare educator and professional, I recognize the profound need for accessible, quality cancer care in our rural communities.

Expanding oncology education into rural areas aligns perfectly with our mission at Minnesota State University Moorhead to train healthcare leaders responsive to underserved communities' evolving needs. Rural healthcare disparities, especially in oncology, require innovative approaches, and this pilot represents the kind of forward-thinking solution we should embrace.

I am confident that investing in rural oncology rotations will enhance the education of healthcare providers and significantly improve patient outcomes across Minnesota's rural regions. Thank you for considering this vital initiative.

Respectfully,

Brandi Sillerud, DNP, MSN, RN, NEA-BC

Professor, MHA Program Coordinator

School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership

Minnesota State University Moorhead

1104 7th Ave S

Moorhead, MN 56563

brandi.sillerud@mncstate.edu

218-205-6781



Nancy Torrison <nancy@abreathofhope.org>
To: "wade@ruralcancer.org" <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 1:10 PM

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am honored to submit this letter of support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As the Executive Director of A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, I am deeply committed to advancing cancer care access and improving outcomes for all Minnesotans, particularly those in underserved rural communities.

At A Breath of Hope, we are acutely aware of rural cancer patients' challenges. Limited access to oncology specialists, long travel times, and financial burdens are often significant barriers to timely diagnosis and treatment. This pilot program presents a tangible, effective solution to these issues by establishing rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows. By providing hands-on experience in rural settings, the program will cultivate a dedicated, well-trained oncology workforce more likely to serve these communities in the future.

Furthermore, ensuring that rural patients access specialized cancer care closer to home will undoubtedly lead to earlier diagnoses and improved survival rates. This initiative's impact will extend far beyond individual patients, strengthening entire communities and fostering healthier futures.

I am confident that the Rural Cancer Institute's vision, in collaboration with Minnesota's exceptional healthcare institutions, will make a meaningful and lasting difference. I respectfully urge your support for this critically important program.

Sincerely,

Nancy Torrison
Executive Director
A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

Nancy Torrison
Executive Director
A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation
nancy@abreathofhope.org
Work Cell: 952-807-6111

More about us: abreathofhope.org

Literacy-based patient education: youandlungcancer.com

Early Detection: mnscreens.org

ABOH EVENTS: abreathofhope.org/events/



The MN Family Resiliency Partnership

Formerly Known as the MN Displaced Homemaker Program

Dear Chair Champion, Co-Chairs Baker and Pinto and Conference Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to express strong support of the Senate's approach to direct appropriations over competitive grants. Direct appropriations assure consistent funding and eliminate the months long lag time between application, award, and implementation. This consistency serves both employers and job seekers across the state without compromising accountability standards. Direct appropriations are subject to the same pre-award risk assessments, work plans, quarterly reporting, and monitoring as competitive grants.

The Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership is not a single nonprofit organization, but rather a statewide program. We are the **only** entity in the state specifically designed to provide PREemployment services to displaced homemakers. A direct appropriation is a better approach to funding our unique wrap around services and programming that help break down the barriers that keep our participants and their children trapped in poverty after a major life transition like divorce, death, abandonment, or disability of a partner.

We are immensely proud of the resilience of our participants and the excellent results the program helps them achieve. Nearly 97% of participants successfully complete the program by attaining the goals they set at intake, which include completing an individualized self-sufficiency plan which demonstrates stability, pursuing a degree or certificate program, and/or becoming employed! Of those participants who became employed & exited the program they earned an average hourly wage in 2024 of \$20.38. At last calculation, the state realized a \$26.89 to \$1 return on its investment in the program by moving people away from public assistance.

Direct appropriations allow for much more timely delivery of services and more direct alignment with community needs. The one-size fits all nature of competitive grants is likely to limit the person-centered wrap-around nature of the services the program provides. The extraordinarily successful, pre-employment and family stabilization services we provide often prepare participants to be successful in other DEED funded programming. Given that the Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership is the only provider with this specific focus, the program may not fit into a competitive grant process.

On behalf of the six regional providers that make up the Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the Senate's position on direct appropriations. I would be happy to provide any further information or engage in discussions to support this request.

Respectfully,

Jean M. Keenan

Jean M. Keenan
On Behalf of the Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership





May 14, 2025

Re: SF1832 (Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance Omnibus bill)

Dear Chairs Champion, Baker, Pinto and Conferees,

We are reaching out on behalf of the Minnesota Initiative Foundations to provide feedback on the respective House and Senate versions of SF1832, the House Jobs Omnibus bill. The Minnesota Initiative Foundations are six regional foundations that work to strengthen the communities and economies of Greater Minnesota. Each Foundation serves its geographic region by delivering grants, business financing, regional programs, belonging work and donor services. We are also regular collaborators on statewide initiatives.

PROMISE Act

For the PROMISE Act grant and loan programs, **we are encouraging this Committee to include some common-sense policy changes for both the PROMISE Act grant and loan programs that were included in the Senate SF1832 on lines 90.25 - 94.9** as well as additional PROMISE Act grant funding in your bill as it moves forward. Including these policy changes would provide greater program clarity for the the balance of program funding awards to eligible small businesses. Small businesses are one of the keys to growing Greater Minnesota community vitality and these resources are one way that the MIFs support those entrepreneurs.

Changes to the Small Business Partnerships Program

The House bill includes language which would amend the eligibility for the Small Business Partnerships program to add "or to revitalize or strengthen downtown and neighborhood commercial districts." We strongly urge this Committee to follow the Senate's lead and not expand this program's eligibility. The work of revitalizing and strengthening downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts is important work, but the program as it stands will have about half as many resources in FY26-27 than were available in the prior biennium. This is not the time to expand the program to other uses. The program as it stands, assists individual small businesses and entrepreneurs and the program's metrics track the businesses assisted, jobs created, and private capital leveraged. Those businesses can be located on Main Street or downtown, but assistance is not limited to those locations as the program currently stands. **Now is not the time to expand this program's eligibility and we urge the Committee to follow the Senate's lead and not expand this program.**

Child Care Solutions

We are additionally appreciative that SF1832 in both the House and Senate include ongoing funding that supports the **Minnesota Initiative Foundation's childcare work, but we urge you to increase resources for this key work.** We are aware of the budget constraints that the state and the state is working within, but the childcare crisis continues to be acute in Greater Minnesota with a shortage of almost 42,000 childcare slots and these resources are unlikely to be sufficient to meet the needs. The funding level for this work included in SF1832 is a funding drop of \$5 million from FY24-25, which will reduce key Greater Minnesota childcare initiatives. This funding represents a key area where the MIFs meet the mission they were created to serve - to be a critical partner to the committee and the state Legislature to deliver on their priorities for all of rural Minnesota.

Background - MIFs Overall Childcare Impact

Each of the MIFs developed multi-year work plans designed to meet the unique needs and opportunities within their respective regions within the four legislated objective areas. Over the past five years, the MIFs have:

- Assisted 183 rural communities and collaborated with more than 1,100 local partners to develop 131 childcare action plans aimed at growing, expanding, and stabilizing licensed childcare.
- Leveraged funding and community resources to help create 4,362 new childcare slots through 157 start-up and expansion projects.
- Provided 8,831 hours of expert tailored technical assistance to 1,728 childcare programs at various stages including start-up, expansion, and/or stabilization.
- Conducted 634 childcare trainings for 7,551 participants to support improved business acumen and program quality improvement. Topics included business planning, leadership development, social-emotional learning, early literacy, and more.
- Supported 1,412 licensed childcare providers to earn, maintain, and/or increase their Parent Aware Quality Improvement Rating, as well as receive curriculum, assessments, and other resources to support program quality.

As you continue your work on this bill, we would urge you to commit additional resources toward this childcare work to help close the childcare shortage in Greater Minnesota. When parents cannot find childcare, it keeps them out of the workforce. Parents can either not participate or cannot fully participate in the labor market and businesses are constrained in hiring and retaining these workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on SF1832 and we look forward to working with you as you finalize the Jobs Omnibus bill.

Thank you,

Tony Sertich, President/CEO - Northland Foundation

Karen White, President/CEO - Northwest Minnesota Foundation

Anna Wasescha, President- West Central Initiative

Brian Voerding, President - Initiative Foundation

Tim Penny, President/CEO - Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Scott Marquardt, President- Southwest Initiative Foundation



May 13, 2025

Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance Bill Conference Committee:

Members

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Bemidji Area

Boys & Girls Clubs of Bois Forte

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota

Boys & Girls Clubs of Detroit Lakes

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Leech Lake Area

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Minneapolis American Indian Center

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northland

The Red Lake Nation Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities

Boys & Girls Clubs of the White Earth Nation

Minnesota Alliance of Boys & Girls Club
690 Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55130
bgcminnesota.org

We sincerely thank Senator Champion for his leadership and support of grant funding for the Minnesota Boys & Girls Clubs. We urge the Conference Committee to accept the Senate's position on these vital legislative appropriations.

For over 65 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs have been pivotal in Minnesota, empowering youth and shaping our future workforce. Serving over 23,000 young people across 60+ locations, including many from under-resourced communities and Native American reservations, the Clubs are a cornerstone of youth development. The Minnesota Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs ensures statewide collaboration and equitable fund distribution.

Direct appropriations are essential for the Clubs for several reasons:

- **Supporting Statewide Impact:** Unlike competitive grants with often restrictive funding limits, direct appropriations match the scale of the Clubs' consistent, high-quality programming delivered across all Minnesota locations.
- **Leveraging Proven Accountability:** The Clubs have a 15-year successful track record of managing direct appropriations, which are subject to state agency oversight comparable to competitive grants. This model recognizes the Alliance's unique operational needs and maximizes impact.
- **Ensuring Equity:** Direct funding overcomes barriers faced by smaller or rural Clubs in competitive grant processes, which often prohibit the necessary sub-granting the Alliance undertakes. This prevents administrative inefficiencies and inequitable fund distribution.

The Boys & Girls Clubs directly address critical workforce needs by providing career exploration, essential skill development, and real-world work experiences like internships and apprenticeships. The crucial \$1 million per year investment received during the last biennium significantly enhanced our ability to deliver this impactful workforce training across the state. This programming is particularly impactful for youth of color and those from low-income communities. Statistics show the effectiveness: 69% of Club teens in 12th grade report career exploration participation at the Club, and 95% believe they have the skills for job success. Furthermore, 56% of Club teens gained work experience in the past year.

Investing in Minnesota Boys & Girls Clubs through direct appropriations is a strategic investment in our state's future. It empowers youth, strengthens our workforce, and builds a more prosperous Minnesota for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bryan Donaldson	Andrea Kent	Travis Vake	Mary Swingle	Pat Petermann	David Northbird
Executive Director, Minnesota Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Bemidji Area	CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bois Forte	CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota	CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Detroit Lakes	CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Leech Lake Area
Mary LaGarde	Dawn Hautajarvi	Thomas Barrett Jr.	Chad Campbell	Terryl Brumm	Carol Thompson
CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Minneapolis American Indian Center	Interim CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northland	CEO, Red Lake Nation Boys & Girls Clubs	CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester	CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities	CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of White Earth

Chair Bobby Joe Champion
Senate Jobs & Economic Development Committee
Minnesota Senate
3401 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Champion, Co-Chairs Pinto and Baker, and Members of the Jobs & Economic Development Conference Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for the Senate's position in SF 1832, which includes a \$1 million direct appropriation to Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) for the 2026-27 biennium. We are grateful to the Senate committee for recognizing the critical impact of direct funding for our work.

NDC is a federally regulated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) based in St. Paul, MN, with statewide reach. For over 31 years, we have served entrepreneurs who face barriers to accessing capital and business development support. Since 2016, NDC has received direct appropriations from DEED under both GOP and DFL leadership, and this funding has allowed us to reach more than 5,800 entrepreneurs.

Direct appropriations have been essential for our ability to provide:

- Pass-through grants and capacity-building technical assistance to Twin Cities organizations like Mni Sota Fund and Cultural Wellness Center.
- Capacity-building support for Greater Minnesota organizations in Moorhead, Lower Sioux, Central MN, and Duluth.
- Pre-development due diligence for affordable commercial incubation spaces in St. Paul and Minneapolis.
- Loans to entrepreneurs who would not qualify for a bank loan, helping them grow and become “bankable”
- Space readiness for new businesses at Midtown Global Market, NDC’s largest affordable commercial incubator.
- High-touch, one-on-one technical assistance for entrepreneurs to improve marketing, bookkeeping, and cost management.

Unlike competitive grants, which are often limited to specific uses, direct appropriations give NDC the flexibility to respond to the evolving needs of underinvested entrepreneurs across Minnesota. Restricting funding to competitive grants would narrow our impact, confining much of our work to the Twin Cities and eliminating our ability to build capacity in Greater Minnesota.

Business Training, Financing, Assistance, and Real Estate Incubators

Frogtown Crossroads • Midtown Global Market • Frogtown Square
Twin Cities Construction Alliance • Frogtown Entrepreneur Center

Under the Small Business Partnerships Grant Program, for example, funds are primarily limited to direct business development (Technical Assistance). While this is an excellent program worthy of investment and a great fit for many organizations, it is not a one-size-fits-all option. Established CDFIs like NDC also strengthen other organizations through capacity-building and develop affordable commercial spaces, activities which the Partnerships program does not support. DEED offers no other competitive grants designed for this broader approach to community economic development.

We urge the conference committee to prioritize a direct appropriation for NDC. This will ensure we continue providing flexible, impactful support to entrepreneurs statewide, without being constrained by the limitations of a competitive grant program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Renay Dosman".

Renay Dosman
Neighborhood Development Center

Business Training, Financing, Assistance, and Real Estate Incubators

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Twin Cities Construction Alliance • Frogtown Entrepreneur Center



Rural Cancer

An Independent Research
and Advocacy Group

May 13, 2025

Representative Dave Pinto Co-Chair,
Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy
503 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.dave.pinto@house.mn.gov

Dear Representative Pinto,

I am writing to introduce myself as a soon-to-be constituent of House District 64B, as I will be closing on my new home at 240 Spring St UNIT 418, Saint Paul, MN, on May 30. As a medical oncologist with over 20 years of experience serving rural Minnesota and the founder of the Rural Cancer Institute, I am deeply committed to addressing the critical healthcare disparities faced by rural Minnesotans, particularly in cancer care. I am reaching out to seek your support for a vital Senate bill that would fund a pilot program to close the "rural cancer gap," as detailed in a recent MinnPost article: <https://www.minnpost.com/other-nonprofit-media/2025/04/minnesota-lawmakers-weigh-funding-to-address-rural-cancer-care-disparity/>.

The Rural Cancer Institute is dedicated to reducing the disparities in rural cancer outcomes. These disparities, driven by limited access to specialists and long travel distances, are a pressing issue. The proposed legislation would allocate \$600,000 from the state's workforce development fund over fiscal years 2026-27. This funding would support a pilot program, modeled after the Rural Physician Associate Program, to expose medical students, residents, and fellows to oncology practice in rural clinics, providing housing support and hands-on experience. While the House has not yet included direct appropriations, such funding would be transformative, enabling timely cancer care for rural patients, bolstering staffing in underserved districts, and creating incentives for trained oncologists to stay and work in Minnesota, strengthening our state's healthcare workforce. Our goal is to inspire these future providers to serve rural communities, addressing the urgent shortage of cancer care providers.



Rural Cancer

An Independent Research
and Advocacy Group

This initiative has garnered strong support from key stakeholders, including the Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology, Mayo Clinic Health System providers, and rural hospital leaders across the state (see attached documentation for letters of support). As a practicing oncologist at Lakewood Health System in Staples, I have witnessed firsthand the life-saving necessity of such a program. As I testified before the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee on April 2, 2025, "The need is urgent. We currently lack the capacity in this state to effectively care for our rural patients with cancer."

Given your role as Co-Chair of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee, your support could be pivotal in advancing this legislation. I respectfully request your consideration to include this bill in an omnibus package or to advocate for its passage in the House. By investing in this pilot program, we can train the next generation of oncologists to serve rural Minnesotans, ultimately saving lives and strengthening our state's healthcare infrastructure. I would be honored to discuss this idea further with you or your team. Please contact me via email (wade@ruralcancer.org) or phone/text (218-839-9711). I have also copied my colleague, Stephanie Ohlmann, and your legislative aide, Carl Kaase, to facilitate communication.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Minnesota's workforce and economic development. I look forward to joining your district and working together to ensure equitable cancer care for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Wade Swenson, MD

CC: Carl Kaase, Legislative Aide Carl.Kaase@house.mn.gov

CC: Stephanie Ohlmann stephanieohlmann@gmail.com

Attachment: Letters of support



1301 Bryant Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411

May 14, 2025

To: Chair Champion, Chair Baker, Chair Pinto, and Members of the SF1832 Conference Committee

From: Emma Corrie, President and CEO, Twin Cities RISE

Subject: Urgent Support Needed for Pay for Performance (PFP) Model and Funding

Dear Co-Chair Baker, Co-Chair Pinto, and Committee Members,

Minnesota has a unique and proven tool in its workforce development portfolio - the Pay for Performance model which has been supported by the legislature for almost three decades. We request your leadership in continuing to fund this important tool. Since 1993, Twin Cities RISE (TCR) has been a leader in workforce innovation—equipping Minnesotans facing the greatest barriers to employment with the skills, support, and personal empowerment they need to succeed in family-sustaining careers. We don't just train workers—we empower our RISERS to shape the trajectory of their lives. And we hold ourselves accountable for outcomes.

In 1997, we introduced Minnesota's groundbreaking Pay for Performance (PFP) model—where the State only pays when we deliver: when a participant is placed in a job and stays employed for at least one year. Today, with a **76% one-year job retention rate—far above the national average of 53%**—TCR remains a national model for performance-based workforce development. States across the country look to Minnesota for inspiration. The PFP model aligns with the state's values of limiting waste, fraud and abuse because it is paying for services already rendered for job placement. As an organization with a 30+ year track record and a diverse funding model of private, corporate, foundation and public funding with regularly audited financial statements, the legislature can have great confidence that taxpayer funds are providing a safe return on taxpayer investment.

This session, we respectfully request a direct appropriation to sustain the PFP model (HF1938/SF1932)—supporting 80+ long-term job placements annually with clear, measurable results. We urge you: **Do not allow Pay for Performance to sunset. Our communities count on us to support them in breaking the cycle of poverty, often generational poverty, towards financial independence.** Please include Senate Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 3(bb) in your final conference committee report.

This initiative is not just a program; it builds Minnesota's economy. Our unique model creates lasting change not just for jobseekers, but for families, employers, and communities across Minnesota. We are expanding the much-needed talent pool for MN's employers, helping them gain access to the strengths and talents of our participants that have the skills employers need, fueled by the emotional intelligence that helps RISERS succeed in their employment. We also share this approach with unions, nonprofit, and employer partners—extending the ripple effect of transformation even further.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to building a more equitable, empowered workforce for our state.

With gratitude,



Emma Corrie
President and CEO
Twin Cities RISE

May 8, 2025

Members of the House and Senate Jobs, Workforce and Labor Conference Committee

Women's Foundation of Minnesota Appreciates Exclusion of Paid Leave Delay in Final Omnibus Bill

As the President and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, I am writing to express our appreciation for excluding a delay or amendment that weakens paid leave in the final omnibus bill. We were part of the coalition that supported paid leave and we're opposed to any language that would prevent on-time implementation of this policy as-written.

We know from our research in our Status of Women & Girls in Minnesota report, and from listening to communities, that family and medical leave is key to long-term success for both individuals and for the greater economy as it actually leads to increased productivity and labor force participation.

Economic studies show that access to paid family leave increases the likelihood that workers will return to their jobs instead of dropping out of the labor force entirely. Mothers with access to leave can also have a positive impact on their children's health and development.

Our data also shows: Women are concentrated in low-wage occupations, like service industries, where benefits are scarce, work is hard, and pay is low and women of color dominate these fields. Many of Minnesota's mothers are the primary breadwinner in the family: 58% of Black mothers, and 46% of Native American mothers, 41% of Latina mothers are the heads of their households, and yet their work is not only poorly compensated, but it also lacks basic benefits.

To achieve economic security and a fair economic playing field, we must value the labor and the roles that women provide by compensating, at minimum, their right to take a leave and return to the workplace without financial penalty or loss of opportunity. Investing in women now, benefits children, families, and the entire community in the long term.

Women in Minnesota are ready for paid leave and have waited long enough. We do not support pushing back the launch date or changing the already passed language. We must support our workers in the labor force and our state's economic growth now by not delaying or diluting these benefits. We urge you to exclude any language that would do so from the final omnibus bill.



Gloria Perez
President & CEO

Funding transformative futures
for women and girls+

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Minneapolis, MN 55401

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612.337.5010
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