



Rep. Dave Baker

Workforce, Labor, & Economic Development Finance & Policy

HF 11 - Delay of Minnesota's Paid Leave Program

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Chair Baker and Members of the House Workforce & Labor Committee,

Minnesota's prosperity depends on the well-being of its youngest residents and their families. The earliest years of a child's life are foundational for lifelong health, development, and success. **The science is clear: supportive policies that strengthen family stability and promote economic security are critical in shaping positive outcomes for children, parents, and communities.**

The **Prenatal to Three Coalition** is committed to ensuring that every infant and toddler in Minnesota has the best possible start in life, regardless of income, race, or geography. We advocate for policies that address disparities in maternal and infant health, increase family supports, and strengthen economic stability—key factors that directly impact child development and long-term well-being.

For years, Minnesota lawmakers have worked to establish a **Paid Family and Medical Leave** program that will give families the ability to care for newborns, recover from childbirth, and handle medical crises without facing financial hardship. The program, passed in 2023, has been carefully studied, debated, and refined over nearly a decade. It reflects the needs of working families, caregivers, and Minnesota businesses. Yet, **HF 11** now seeks to delay these much-needed benefits, placing unnecessary strain on families who are counting on this support.

Now is the time to **increase support for families—not delay it**. We urge you to oppose **HF 11** and stand with Minnesota's families, infants, and caregivers by ensuring the timely implementation of the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

Sincerely,

Alisha Porter,
Children's Defense Funds-MN,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator