



April 10th, 2023

*The Business Resource Collective (BRC) is a coalition 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, immigrant, and people of color owned (BIPOC) businesses. We are writing a letter in support of the Paid Family Medical Leave bill.*

The Business Resource Collective believes that all people deserve time for rest, caring for a loved one and ensuring that Minnesota business owners are models of a 'caring' economy. The vast majority of Minnesotans don't have access to paid family & medical leave benefits. This means every day, Minnesotans have to choose between losing a paycheck or caring for a new child, an aging loved one, or themselves. Our current system is costly to workers, families, businesses, and our economy.

The Paid Family & Medical Leave bill (HF2/SF2) would create a statewide social insurance program that would provide up to 12 weeks of partial wage replacement for medical leave (including pregnancy), so Minnesotans can take care of themselves. In addition it would provide up to 12 weeks of partial wage replacement for family leave, so Minnesotans can take care of their loved ones such as a new child or ailing spouse. It would create a partial wage-replacement benefit on a progressive scale at 90%-55% of an employee's salary (66% on average), while protecting job and healthcare benefits, so Minnesotans can experience economic security during their leave.

We believe the need for this program is urgent and that many small business owners would benefit from this program. This program would give people economic security during life-changing events. Most importantly, paid leave programs help small businesses afford a benefit they might not be able to provide on their own, which in turn can make them more competitive and appealing to a new generation of employees.

We urge your support and look forward to SF2 receiving hearings in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Shruthi Kamisetty

Coalition Organizer, Business Resource Collective