

Dear Committee Members,

I am Corinne Martin, writing against restricting the paid sick or safe days currently guaranteed to all workers in MN.

I am a single mom, living at Bickham Court apartments in St. Louis Park. The community I live in is all low-income single parent families just trying to make the best life we can for our kids. We are one of the communities that would benefit most from programs like Earned Sick and Safe Time, and we will be the ones most greatly affected by the changes that are proposed to be made. A lot of single moms like me, would love to work full time but cannot. The ability to know that I can keep my daughter safe and healthy without having to worry about losing my job or not getting a paycheck for that week, is something that single and two parent homes desperately need. I have a small family, it's just me and my 4-year-old daughter, and all of the rest of our family live in Florida & Colorado. There have been times when I was really sick, but I was forced to go to work because I would not be able to afford to pay rent and buy groceries if I missed just one day of work. It is hard enough having to live paycheck to paycheck, but with the constant fear of losing my job or not making enough money to get by is very real, and only getting worse. The cost of living has only increased and it doesn't seem to be getting any better, so having that safety net at work means so much less anxiety. I have made desperate life choices that hurt me in the long run, just so I could pay my bills.

I am currently working part time so that I can go to school part time, limiting what workers benefit from Earned Sick and Safe Time will only create more problems for the families that need this help the most. If my daughter got sick right now, the only person I have to call for help is myself. It is so unbelievably scary and difficult to do this on my own, and in the past, I have stayed in abusive relationships because I was too afraid to leave because I did not think I could make it on my own. Now that I am on my own, I dedicate as much time as I can to advocate for bills like Earned Sick and Safe Time because I understand how life-changing these protections are. I was so excited and grateful when I found out that this bill would actually get implemented and do a lot of good for all Minnesotan families, big or small. However, the changes that are being suggested would greatly limit the amount of support myself and the rest of the single moms I know would receive.

Please keep Earned Sick and Safe Time the way it was originally promised to us.

-Corinne Martin

District 46A