



April 2, 2025

Chair Pinto, Chair Baker, and Members of the House Workforce Committee:

As the state's labor federation, we represent over 1,000 local unions with over 300,000 members working in the public sector, private sector, and building trades across the state. We are writing to express our support for HF689.

Minnesota workers who had experienced wage theft organized with unions and labor organizations for many years to document the prevalence of wage theft and find ways to address this problem in its various forms. MN AFL-CIO is proud of our work with the Coalition to End Wage Theft to advocate for the Wage Theft Prevention Act enacted in 2019. This nation-leading law empowered workers to ensure they are being paid what they are owed, granted new powers to DLI and enforcement authority to the Attorney General, increased penalties to deter violations of the law, and made wage theft a crime like any other type of theft.

More recently, MN AFL-CIO's Racial and Economic Justice Committee has partnered with the Justice for All Coalition to support expanding administrative subpoena powers to county attorneys for wage theft cases. County attorneys do not have the ability to obtain records in the same way law enforcement or civil enforcement agencies do, and this will give county attorneys a critical tool to aid their ability to prosecute these crimes.

Finally, we want to point out that worker misclassification fraud is one of the most egregious forms of wage theft since, in addition to whatever wage theft is occurring, it also denies workers all of the rights and benefits associated with employment. We would support adding language to allow county attorneys to subpoena records of payments to contractors as well as employees since in many instances of wage theft workers are misclassified as independent contractors.

Thank you for considering this important bill and we hope you will support it.

Best regards,

  
Melissa Hysing  
Legislative Director

