



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

FMWF Chamber Opposition to House File 2

April 20th, 2023

Chair Gomez, Vice Chair Norris, and members of the Minnesota House Taxes Committee,

For the record, my name is Shannon Full, and I have the pleasure of serving as President and CEO of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in opposition to House File 2.

Minnesota businesses, both large and small, are fighting to keep their doors open. Whether they are trying to remain financially stable during record-setting inflation, attract employees in a national workforce shortage, or locate materials during supply scarcity, the last thing Minnesota businesses need is a mandatory one-size-fits-all Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

In a time of budget surpluses and workforce shortages, our state needs to be looking for creative solutions to becoming more competitive, not less. While other states look to cut taxes, this bill would raise taxes on every employee and employer across the state. While every state is looking to address the workforce crisis and incentivize individuals to join the workforce, this bill would leave employers with even fewer employees. While other states are looking to reduce burdensome regulations to spur economic growth, this bill would implement further regulations and increase costs to Minnesotans.

The mandatory paid leave and sick and safe leave bills are neither equitable nor sustainable, costing taxpayers billions of dollars and decreasing Minnesota's ability to attract and retain business. As you know, border communities, like our region, face a unique set of challenges given our proximity to North Dakota. If enacted, small and medium-sized businesses across the greater Moorhead area will ultimately be forced to close their doors or relocate to a more business-friendly state. These bills are bad for business and bad for Minnesota.

We recognize the priority which surrounds this bill but given its implications, the substantial challenges the business community is facing, and the draconian nature of this proposal, we respectfully urge this committee to oppose House File 2 to keep Minnesota open for business.

On behalf of our members and business throughout Minnesota, I would like to thank this committee for considering this critical manner and for your dedication to the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Shannon Full
President/ CEO
FMWF Chamber of Commerce
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