



March 9, 2021

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SEIU Healthcare Minnesota represents 40,000 workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and self-directed homecare. During the COVID-19 pandemic they have been on the front lines helping to care for Minnesotans sick with COVID-19 and helping others to avoid getting sick. On their behalf, I encourage legislators to support HF1203/SF1203, which would extend the current law to provide presumptive eligibility for workers compensation to certain essential workers.

As essential workers, healthcare workers continued to serve during the pandemic. They wanted to know that they would be protected financially if they got sick, especially since the long-term effects of COVID-19 are still unknown. Last year, business, labor and both parties came together to pass the presumptive eligibility bill. It provides a model of how all sides can negotiate a fair compromise to help the essential workers we count on to fight the pandemic. In particular, the bill included homecare workers, who have far too often been left out of other labor law protections.

While the bill was not perfect, many of our members have benefited from the bill and all our members have enjoyed additional peace of mind. Since the pandemic continues to endanger workers and new variants create more uncertainty, we hope you will approve legislation to extend the law.

Sincerely yours,

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