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February 13, 2025

House File 21 (Robbins)

Chair Nash and House State Government Committee Members –

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents over 10,000 small businesses across Minnesota. Our mission is to promote and protect the rights of our members to own, operate, and grow their businesses.

NFIB Minnesota supports modifications to the laws governing the Governor's authority during a peacetime emergency. In particular, we are supportive of efforts to ensure that both the Senate and the House of Representatives provide an affirmative vote before emergency powers are extended beyond the initial period. The current standard, which requires the affirmative vote of both legislative bodies to rescind emergency powers sets a bar that is extremely difficult to reach, particularly in the case of a divided legislature.

Many small businesses suffered greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure orders and other orders that placed limitations on their operations. Mainstreet employers were repeatedly forced to scale back or shut down with little or no notice, input, or recourse. Over 10,000 businesses were closed due to the pandemic and restrictions, and those who survived faced a continuous struggle with the long-term impact of the closures. Providing the legislature with a greater level of input would result in more balanced decision-making on these issues in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We urge the committee to support House File 21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Boesche', written in a cursive style.

Jon Boesche
Minnesota State Director
National Federation of Independent Business
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