

Perennial C Y C L E

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Hello my name is Luke Breen I'm a lifelong Minnesotan. I grew up in Benson Minnesota. Currently I reside in Minneapolis. My wife and I own Perennial Cycle. A bicycle shop in Uptown Minneapolis. This April will be our 30th year in business. Perennial Cycle has 8-14 hard working employees.

As a small business owner my wife and I are dealing with many challenges every day. Most of these challenges are simply part of the choice we made when we decided to own our own business. Some are bigger and harder than others.

Healthcare seems to be one of those one of the challenges that is simply too big for our small business to overcome. It is normal for my family's Healthcare to have a deductible in the range of 10 to 14,000. Up until Obamacare that insurance did not even include an annual physical. Thanks to the MNSure Marketplace We've been able to get our family health insurance for a number of years. that has worked out well for us but it is not something that is very helpful to our employees at their earning levels.

The business that I own seems to fall into a crack that is too small to buy into an economical Healthcare package that could possibly allow me to pay health insurance for my staff. And then my staff is falls into another crack because they earn too much to get on to the Minnesota Care Public Option but not enough to afford decent Healthcare.

This combination makes it difficult for me to keep employees. Over the years I have lost several employees who were aging out of their family's healthcare.

While I'd love to be able to buy health insurance for my employees, I don't see that happening anytime in the future. We are just too small.

The Minnesota Care Public Option would be extremely beneficial to my business and I believe it would be a huge asset for many small businesses like Perennial Cycle that are struggling to keep employees as well as struggling to pay for their own families' health care.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be heard today. I really appreciate it.

Luke Breen



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