

April 13, 2021

Representative Rena Moran  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
449 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: H.F. 1342 Omnibus Workforce and Economic Development Finance and Policy Bill**

Dear Representative Moran,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of the paid family and medical leave provisions in H.F. 1342, the Workforce and Economic Development Omnibus bill. I appreciate that the bill provides funding for the Department of Labor and Industry to fund oversight and compliance work related to the program as well as information technology systems upgrades.

A comprehensive paid family and medical leave program will provide Minnesotans economic stability and needed time away from work to welcome a new family member, care for an aging loved one, or recover from an illness or injury. Current unpaid leave laws, which provide a right for certain employees to take job-protected leave – depending on the size of their employer and how long they’ve been employed – are woefully inadequate as many workers simply can’t afford to take extended unpaid time off work for caregiving responsibilities. Paid family and medical leave would ease the financial burden on families during significant life events.

Paid family and medical leave would benefit hardworking Minnesotans. In addition to partial-wage replacement, the legislation includes important job protections to ensure workers can return to employment after a leave and can’t be retaliated against for requesting or obtaining benefits. Paid family and medical leave would also benefit employers, increasing workforce attachment and employee morale.

Low-wage workers and Minnesotans of color are less likely to receive paid time off from work. For many Minnesotans, taking leave with little or no pay can create significant economic instability for their families, often during some of the most challenging times. Paid family and medical leave is, therefore, a matter of equity and an opportunity to address systemic disparities.

Sincerely,



Roslyn C. Robertson  
Commissioner

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cc: Representative Pat Garofalo, Republican Lead, Ways and Means Committee  
Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair, Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee  
Representative Rod Hamilton, Republican Lead, Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee