



**SEIU Healthcare**<sup>®</sup>  
United for Quality Care

March 23, 2021

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As a home care worker and a member of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, I write to support HF1335, which would create a new fifth tier income tax rate. Our union, which represents 29,000 members in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and self-directed homecare, believes we need to raise this revenue to fund essential workers in healthcare, child-care, education, and, most especially, a new contract for home care workers.

I bring an unusual perspective to this debate. If my life had not taken a significant turn five years ago, I might very well be someone impacted by the proposed new fifth tier. I spent over twenty years working in financial services. I obtained insurance licenses and securities registrations during my time as a financial advisor. Then I moved into various roles in regulatory compliance and finally worked as a business analyst. At the time, I was earning a six-figure income and looking forward to my prime earning years. After many years in a male dominated industry, I had succeeded in building a career I was proud of and one that allowed me to model success for my daughter and my granddaughters.

In the fall of 2015, everything changed. My son Keegan, an Iraqi war veteran, was involved in a motorcycle accident which left him critically injured. After ten months in the hospital, we were told to find him a nursing home. We declined. We wanted to bring him home. My son is unable to walk or stand, he cannot speak, and he needs a feeding tube. He developed a life-threatening form of epilepsy and cannot be left alone. I struggled to find PCAs to provide my son the care he needs, but low-wages and high turnover always led to failure. Without an alternative, I decided to give up my career to take care of my son. Now, instead of funding my 401k, I hope the new SEIU contract will raise the minimum wage for homecare workers to \$15.25.

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When I worked in finance, I worked very hard for my money, but certainly not any harder than I work now as a PCA. If I knew then how hard PCAs worked, how little they get paid, and how much they mean to the elderly and disabled, I would have been happy to pay a little extra in taxes so that we could raise their wages and address the workforce shortage. As someone who has been fortunate financially, I think most Minnesotans with similar success would be willing to pay a little bit more to support those who care for the elderly and disabled.

On behalf on SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, please support HF1335.

Sincerely yours,

Kerry Adelman  
Eureka Township, Dakota County

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