

Those in support of the new Paid Family and Medical Leave Act (PFML) in Minnesota seem to think that small businesses don't already have access to and the ability to choose supplemental insurance plans that provide them and their employees with such insurance coverages. These types of insurances are already available in the free market place, and it is not the role of government to come in and undercut the market by forcibly taking more of our hard-earned money through superfluous taxation.

Looking at the data from the MN employment and economic development website, in 2021 Minnesota's annual employment number shows an average workforce of 2,774,976 workers with weekly wages of \$1288. Annually, the workforce generated total wages of \$185,978,296,834. In this proposed new taxation, employees and their employers will initially be taxed around \$0.35/\$100 of earned wages. This means the average citizen will lose around \$18 out of their monthly paycheck. Their employer will also have to pay an equal amount of tax for each employee, but this will likely be passed onto the consumer in higher service and product costs.

Proponents are quick to cite a 2016 article claiming that Minnesotans lose close to \$900 million in lost wages per year (factually the article only states \$839 million). The article also mentions that on average recipients will only receive 66% of their lost wages when and if they apply and are accepted.

What does this all add up to and why does it matter? After all, \$18/month isn't so bad, right? Wrong. Using these figures, the state will forcibly withhold your hard-earned money to a tune of \$650 million dollars and will forcibly tax your employer for an additional \$650 million for a grand total of more than \$1.3 billion dollars a year in new taxes, yet will only reimburse us on average 66% of the approximate \$900 million lost in wages. That is roughly \$600 million returned to us. Where does the other \$700 million go? This act will not help the majority of Minnesotans and businesses, it will cost us! This is a so-called "win-win-win," in sheep's clothing forced on us by a government that is overstepping its authority and meddling unnecessarily in the free market.

I urge Minnesota legislators to set aside voting solely on party line and to consider the harmful impacts of this proposed bill to small businesses. Please vote No to this bill.