



March 21, 2022

Senator Gary Dahms
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2111
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Dahms and Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy Committee Members,

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) is the largest statewide association of nonprofits in the country, representing over 2,200 member organizations across the state. Through MCN, nonprofits join together across interest areas to work on issues of common interest to all. MCN works to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector.

We are writing in opposition to SF_3885, authored by Senator Julia Coleman. Minnesota needs a stateside Paid Family and Medical Leave insurance program, including medical leave. Medical leave makes up over half of all Paid Family and Medical Leave use in states with a PMFL program, and cannot be left out. Pregnancy complications, an unexpected injury, or serious illness would not be covered under SF 3885.

While we heartily agree with the bill's aim to provide parental leave, it dismisses the needs of workers across the state of Minnesota who provide care to their family members across the lifespan. This includes employees who have caregiving responsibilities for our growing aging population in every part of the state.

The cost of these tax credits could be better spent on providing paid family and medical leave to all Minnesotans through a state run insurance program, as in HF 1200. As you know, tax credits are not free and shift costs elsewhere. Tax credits have to be offset by a reduction in government services or an increase in taxes somewhere else.

We ask that members oppose SF_3885 authored by Senator Julia Coleman. If you have any questions, please contact Ileana Mejia, public policy advocate, at the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits at 717-217-9997 or imejia@minnesotanonprofits.org. Thank you for your continuing partnership as we work together to serve the communities of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marie Ellis in cursive.

Marie Ellis
Public Policy Director

Handwritten signature of Ileana Mejia in cursive.

Ileana Mejia
Public Policy Advocate