



April 4, 2022

Senator Eric Pratt  
Chair, Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy  
3219 Minnesota Senate Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Pratt and Senate Jobs committee members:

I am writing to express labor’s concerns about the DE amendment to SF4091 as well as the A5 to SF3881.

First, the DE amendment eliminates Paid Family and Medical Leave from the bill. This universal social insurance program is modeled after successful programs like UI and Social Security: everyone contributes and everyone benefits. Private insurance products are not going to meet the needs of working Minnesotans.

We are also disappointed to see OSHA federal penalty conformity taken out of the bill. Minnesota’s OSHA penalties are the third lowest in the country and have not been adjusted in over 20 years. Federal conformity would help deter workplace health and safety violations, ensure continued federal funding and protect our state program.

We are disappointed to see additional resources for prevailing wage enforcement scaled back. Especially with massive federal funding for infrastructure coming to our state, it is important to ensure that funding creates jobs with family-sustaining wages, and increasing enforcement of prevailing wage will help do that.

Finally, we oppose the wage theft provisions on lines 13.11-17.6 of the DE amendment. These provisions roll back key components of the 2019 wage theft law that ensure workers know what they are supposed to be paid, and that penalties are strong enough to deter employers from violating the law.

Best regards,

Melissa Hysing  
Legislative Director

