



March 18, 2022

RE: SF 1780

Dear Chair Nelson and members of the Senate Taxes Committee:

ISAIAH is a statewide organization of congregations, mosques, childcare centers, and barber shops. Our mission is to build a democracy that respects every person's dignity and a caring economy where everyone can thrive. We are writing today in opposition to SF 3885.

No matter where they live or what they look like, every Minnesotan deserves to take the time they need to care for themselves in times of great need. Whether it is welcoming a new baby, caring for a dying family member, recovering from a serious injury or illness, or escaping from an unsafe relationship, we need a statewide paid family and medical leave program that meets people's needs.

Currently too many workers, especially hourly workers in some of the most essential jobs – such as child care, education, food service, and healthcare – lack access to adequate paid leave to tend to these life situations. Unfortunately, SF 1780 does nothing to actually expand access to paid leave for Minnesotans who currently are excluded.

ISAIAH has been proud to serve as organizational co-chair for the Minnesotans for Paid Family and Medical Leave Coalition since 2014. The bill supported by this coalition, SF1205, is backed by copious amounts of research and based on successful paid family and medical leave programs that have passed in nine other states plus Washington, DC. Unfortunately, that bill has not been given a single hearing in the Senate in the past two legislative sessions.

We urge you to reject SF 1780 and to pass real solutions that expand paid leave opportunities to all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Lars Negstad  
Policy Director, ISAIAH