



March 17, 2023

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
2111 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hoffman and Human Services Committee Members,

We're writing in support of SF 2934, repealing the sub-minimum wage for disabled workers. Workers with disabilities face significant barriers to employment and often struggle to find and maintain jobs that pay a livable wage. The lower minimum wage perpetuates this inequality, as it incentivizes employers to pay disabled workers less than their non-disabled coworkers.

Minnesota has the highest percentage of workers earning sub-minimum wages in the nation. The Minnesota AFL-CIO is opposed to all exemptions from the state minimum wage and we support the work of the Task Force on Eliminating Subminimum Wages to phase out this inequitable policy.

We believe that no matter where we live, where we work, what we look like, or whether we have a disability – all working people should be paid fairly for our labor. While people with disabilities may require accommodations in the workplace and additional supports to succeed in their jobs, we firmly believe this should not come at the expense of their pay and dignity.

If Minnesota is serious about reducing wage inequality while promoting greater inclusivity and diversity in our workforce, eliminating the subminimum wage for disabled workers will be a major step forward. We urge you to support SF 2934.

Sincerely,

Bernie Burnham
President

Brad Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer