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January 11, 2023

Senate File 10 (Seeberger)/House File 10 (Lislegard)

Dear Members of the Senate Labor Committee,

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents over 10,000 small businesses in every industry and every corner of our state. Nearly 90% of our members have fewer than 20 employees and our average member employs 10 employees and earns \$500,000 in annual revenue.

NFIB is committed to advocating for the best interests of Main Streets across Minnesota, and we believe that Senate File 10/House File 10 sets a troubling precedent for the future hiring practices of small businesses across the state.

Hiring is a major challenge for small employers right now. Recent NFIB data shows that over 40% of small employers have long-term openings they cannot fill – nearly double the historic average. Over 90% of our members report few or no qualified applicants for positions.

Making hiring more difficult for one industry by prescribing that any type of employer hire only from a select pool of workers sets the stage to make it more difficult in other industries.

Worker safety is a top priority for small business owners, who are part of the same community – and, oftentimes, the same family – as their employees. Small employers can least afford to lose workers or work hours. However, this proposal does not set or improve safety standards for hazardous industries.

We urge the committee to tailor any legislation to specific and addressable safety concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John L. Reynolds'.

John L. Reynolds
Minnesota State Director
National Federal of Independent Business
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