

April 26, 2024

Minnesota Senate  
Finance Committee  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As three individual members of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) in Minnesota. These amendments are vital for the equitable treatment of our university's employees and for the overall well-being of our institution and its stakeholders.

Contrary to any concerns that may arise, the proposed changes to PELRA will not negatively impact the University of Minnesota. In fact, these amendments will bring about positive changes that will benefit our entire university community. By ensuring fair and equitable collective bargaining processes, these changes will reduce the financial burden on our students, improve the working conditions of our instructors, alleviate staff burnout, and promote consistency and fairness in wages and working conditions across all five of our campuses.

It is important to emphasize that the University of Minnesota is well-equipped to handle normal processes for collective bargaining. These proposed amendments will only serve to enhance our ability to foster a supportive and inclusive working environment for all members of our university community. By aligning PELRA with modern labor practices, we can further our commitment to excellence in education and research while prioritizing the well-being and rights of our employees.

In conclusion, as three individual Regents, we urge you to support the proposed amendments to PELRA. These changes are not only necessary for the advancement of labor rights but also for the continued success of the University of Minnesota. While we have not yet had the opportunity to take this question up with the whole Board of Regents, we believe that this change will serve the best interest of the whole University of Minnesota community and the State of Minnesota. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your support.

Sincerely,



Robyn Gulley  
University of Minnesota Regent

  
James Farnsworth (Apr 25, 2024 12:11 CDT)

James Farnsworth  
University of Minnesota Regent



Mary Turner  
University of Minnesota Regent