



THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF PARAMEDICS AND EMTs
1325 WINTER ST, SUITE 102. MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413

04/07/2024

RE: Support for SF 4355

Dear Chair Dziedzic and Committee Members,

I am the president of the Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs (HCAPE). HCAPE is the labor union that represents the Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) of Hennepin EMS. Hennepin EMS is a division of Hennepin Healthcare. Our members have proudly provided 911 ambulance response to 14 municipalities within Hennepin County.

I am writing in support of SF 4355. For many years, the labor union representatives at Hennepin Healthcare have been sounding the alarm on inadequate leadership, unsafe working environments, financial mismanagement, and imprudent spending. Our requests for change have been dismissed, delayed, or completely ignored. In 2023, we raised concerns when hospital leadership implemented changes to our health insurance, resulting in increased premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for frontline workers, all the while granting the CEO multiple significant salary increases. As a result, each union issued an overwhelming majority vote of no confidence in our CEO by our membership. Leadership at Hennepin Healthcare has been prioritizing their own personal benefit over addressing serious workforce concerns. They are overseen by the Hennepin Healthcare Board, which has become laser-focused on defending wealthy executives and consumed by power. There is no proper accountability, oversight, or mechanism for hospital leadership to be held accountable at Hennepin Healthcare.

I believe that SF 4355 will grant the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners the authority to withhold approval of a budget that adversely affects workers within the organization and, consequently, the organization as a whole. I ask that you please support and vote yes to approve SF 4355.

Respectfully,

Shane Hallow

President,

Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs