



March 7, 2024

Sen. Jennifer A. McEwen
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3217
St. Paul, MN 55155

Jamie Gulley
President

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Rasha Ahmad Sharif
Executive Vice President

Rep. Sydney Jordan
553 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. McEwen & Rep. Jordan:

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa represents over 50,000 healthcare workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and self-directed homecare. We strongly support HF4508/SF4597. Many of our members work in the same campus environment as the workers in question or are products of the excellent health care training and education provided by the University.

At SEIU, we believe that giving workers a voice on the job is the best way to create an economy that rewards work, increases productivity, and reduces economic inequality. Unions are an especially effective method to achieve these goals for workers who suffer from racial or gender discrimination.

HF4508/SF4597 would update and reform Minnesota Public Employee Labor Relations Act so that over 23,000 workers at the University of Minnesota would have a more effective opportunity to decide whether they wish to join a union. The bill updates several statutory units that are outdated and make unionization virtually impossible. Current rules, in some cases create massive 'catch-all' units that cram disparate groups with little in common all together. In other cases, the current rules split workers performing the same jobs between multiple units. These units have long since passed the point of common sense. We encourage you to listen to the workers and students from the University of Minnesota who believe that the units as defined in this bill more accurately reflect their communities and interests.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Varco

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