



MINNESOTA TEAMSTERS PUBLIC & LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEES' UNION, LOCAL NO. 320, STATE OF MINNESOTA



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Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

As the Principal Officer for Teamsters Local 320, I write to urge your support for the proposed amendments to the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA). Currently, PELRA's provisions prevent thousands of University of Minnesota employees from exercising their rights and securing union representation. This bill is crucial in addressing this disparity and bringing the university's labor relations into the twenty-first century.

Teamsters represent a diverse group of frontline staff at the University of Minnesota who perform essential work in areas of food service, cleaning, landcare, maintenance, and more. Many of our members work alongside undergraduates, professional students, researchers and other non-union staff who are also performing public services in support of the university's teaching and research missions. These workers deserve the same collective bargaining rights and public employment protections that our members enjoy. The proposed legislation will provide a clear pathway to public employment and union representation for thousands of workers on our campuses.

Teamsters also believe that the proposed changes to PELRA are necessary to ensure equity in the university's workforce. It is not fair that thousands of low-wage university employees are excluded from the rights and protections of state labor law, including those reliant on financial aid, paid through stipends, or subject to undercounted hours. This bill will help to raise employment standards for all workers on campus, regardless of their job classification or union affiliation.

As the oldest existing union on the University of Minnesota campuses and one of the first exclusive representatives to take advantage of PELRA, Teamsters have witnessed dramatic changes in the university's workforce classifications in the past several decades. It is clear to us that PELRA's statutory units for non-union staff are wildly out of step with the realities of the current workforce and have hindered unionization efforts. The proposed reforms are long overdue and deserve the consideration and support of the legislature.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 320

Brian Aldes
Secretary Treasurer

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