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February 15, 2024

**Senate File 3554 (McEwen)**

Dear Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee,

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents over 10,000 small businesses across Minnesota. We advocate for the best interests of Main Street.

NFIB Minnesota appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 3554, which establishes a painter contracting board and new licensing requirements for painters.

Imposing further licensing requirements is unnecessary, restricts an already shallow labor pool, and raises the cost of simple home maintenance projects.

On even the simplest painting projects, this bill will make it infeasible to hire everyone from young folks looking to earn extra money to older, experienced workers only looking for occasional work. As we understand the proposal, even a neighborhood kid who paints fences after school to help their family make ends meet could face investigation and fines.

In a residential setting, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry already requires a residential construction contractor license for an individual or company that contracts directly with an owner of residential property to provide work in more than one special skill area. For painters, exterior, interior, and drywall painting are separate skill areas.

Single skill contractors who are not required to obtain a license generally must already register with the state under the Construction Contractor Registration program.

Additional certification from the state and federal government may be required when work is being performed in older homes that contain lead paint.

We urge you to reject the restrictive and redundant licensing requirements in SF 3554.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John L. Reynolds".

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