



March 21, 2024

Senator Jennifer A. McEwen, Chair
Senate Labor Committee
1100 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair McEwen and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, I write today to express our opposition to Senate File 4708. The Minneapolis Regional Chamber represents over 2,300 businesses of all sizes across the Twin Cities Region. As the largest local chamber of commerce in the state, we know the importance of having a robust workforce and diverse business development. As we continue to grapple with an extraordinarily tight labor market, those needs are more important than ever.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport was recently recognized once again as a top airport in North America. MSP has earned this prestigious award 7 times in the last 8 years. This award is based on passenger feedback from over 400 airports in 95 countries. A major point of recognition is based on dining and shopping passengers experience while at the airport. Cultivating a vibrant and diverse business environment is essential for the economic health of the MSP region. Ensuring that small businesses can be a part of MSP's recognized success means ensuring those businesses are not harmed by additional mandated programs for benefits which they currently provide.

While MRC strongly supports providing employees benefits for their health and wellness, we have significant concerns about this proposal as written, particularly the burdens this could place on small businesses who are already struggling financially. The Minneapolis Regional Chamber hopes policymakers will continue to work with the business community to ensure businesses continue to thrive in the MSP region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Weinhagen', written in a fluid, cursive style.

Jonathan Weinhagen
President & CEO
Minneapolis Regional Chamber