



March 19, 2024

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Capitol, Room 328

St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Rest and members of the Senate Tax Committee:

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa represents over 50,000 workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and self-directed home care. Despite recent pay increases, care work remains underfunded in Minnesota and the state faces a significant care worker shortfall over the next decade. We support HF4513/SF4750 because it will help the public decide how to fund this and other critical priorities.

Adequate care, just like roads and bridges, is public infrastructure: We all depend on it to live in a functional society. So we must all contribute to ensure it is adequately funded. Any one of us could find ourselves in need of care to get healthy.

Alternatively, we may need care to support ourselves or a family member when we can't do it on our own. Families and individuals rely on this infrastructure to return to work, to continue in the workforce, or to live with dignity and independence.

Our union supports any effort by state authorities to ensure that large corporations and the wealthy are contributing their fair share to the people and infrastructure that keep our state running. Greater transparency in our corporate tax code will highlight the efficacy of our corporate tax system, and make clear who is receiving outsized benefits from numerous corporate tax breaks.

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¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7054843/>

Data from large publicly owned corporations in the healthcare industry show how our system is broken, and rigged in favor of the largest multinational firms. For example, while our members regularly help clients pick up and purchase prescription drugs that they can barely afford, research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that large pharmaceutical companies earn, on average, nearly double the profit margin of large multinational corporations in other industries.

Many corporations are earning enormous revenues in Minnesota and contributing far less than they should back to our collective well-being. Minnesotans have the right to know how our state tax code contributes to or counteracts this sort of tax avoidance.

Thank you to Sen. Marty for authoring this important reform. We hope that you and members will consider including it in the omnibus tax bill this year.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Varco
Political Director