



Jan. 22, 2025

Senator McEwen and members of the Senate Labor committee:

As the collective voice of Minnesota's labor unions representing over 300,000 members of more than 1,000 local unions in every corner of the state, we advocate for policies that improve the lives of workers, retirees, and their families. That is why we supported the enactment of Earned Sick and Safe Time and why are writing to respectfully express our opposition to SF 310.

The purpose of laws like Earned Sick and Safe Time is to create a floor of minimum standards to protect workers. People get sick and need paid time off regardless of the industry they work in, the size of their employer, what kind of employer they have, the duration of their employment, or the type of work they do. This would also be true of workers at small family farms.

Sometimes employers cite reasons they should be exempted from this or that labor standard, because they treat their workers like family. While some employers do genuinely care about their employees and have great relationships with them, that cannot be generalized across any industry and is not a sufficient reason to be exempted from a minimum labor standard.

The need for workers to have Earned Sick and Safe Time was discussed and debated at the Legislature for years before it was passed in 2023 and again when a cleanup bill was passed in 2024. The COVID pandemic made clear the need for this standard to protect workers and prevent the spread of disease. Workers at small farms are no less deserving of paid sick time than any other worker in Minnesota. Please vote no on SF 310.

Best regards,

Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director

