



March 18th, 2025

Senator Ann Rest  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Capitol, Room 328  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Rest and Senate Taxes Committee Members:

We Make Minnesota is a coalition of labor and community groups united in support of a just and equitable state tax code. Our members include the teachers, care workers, administrators, and laborers that keep our state running. We are writing to state our support for SF 2290, which would establish a new income tax bracket for high earners.

Minnesota's aging population and growing costs for healthcare and education are creating a projected deficit that state lawmakers will have to balance against revenues. SF 2290 would help close that gap and protect essential programs like Medical Assistance. The revenues raised by this bill will not cover our shortfall entirely, but will allow lawmakers the fiscal flexibility they need to manage Minnesota's evolving spending needs.

Absent additional revenue, Minnesota will face untenable cuts to core programs that will hurt families, workers, and seniors in every community across the state. These harms will intensify if anticipated federal budget cuts are enacted. Minnesota will not be able to balance current deficits — let alone those that will result in the instance of a federal budget cut — with revenue alone. But they will greatly reduce the pain and consequences of impending decisions.

Increased tax rates on top earners is also important to our coalition given rising income and wealth inequality. Since 1979, the income share of the top 1% has risen from 9.6% in 1979 to 23.2% in 2021. SF 2290 will restore the combined top state and federal tax rate to its pre-2017 level, making our tax code more fair and raising revenue to protect Minnesota communities.

We urge you to support this common sense solution to looming budget challenges.

Sincerely,

*Eric H Bernstein*

Eric Harris Bernstein, Coalition Director

