

Dear Senate Committee Administrator Timothy Bohl,

We need a publicly administered system for Paid Family & Medical Leave not another private insurance program that leaves low paid workers, who are often women and people of color without coverage. Publicly administered programs such as Medicare compared to private insurance have lower administrative costs because they are not padded to provide a private profit margin. Private insurance has proven that it does not cover everyone, only those who can afford the premium.

It is in the interest of all of us for workers to stay home when they are sick and/or to be able to take care of family members who are sick and not be forced to make the choice between a pay check and spreading disease.

A publicly administered system with shared costs will protect the most people in the most efficient manner. Good government with legislative oversight will produce this system at the lowest cost.

Sincerely,
Diane Bublitz
Saint Cloud, MN

Dear Senate Committee Administrator Timothy Bohl,

The opportunity gap in our schools starts at the youngest of ages, when parents who lack paid family leave are forced to return to work immediately, missing out on important development time. My son had to leave my grandson to return to work immediately in order to ensure the rent would be paid. All parents, whether they are black, brown, native or white, should have time to bond with their newborns without having to choose between financial security and spending the first few months with their baby.

Insurance companies are beholden to stockholders and not the broader good of young families. The senate family leave bill under consideration puts our ability to care for our Minnesota families in the hands of private insurance executives, who benefit a thousands times over from short term profits.

Your bold leadership to ensure every Minnesotan has paid family and medical leave can make us the proud state we could, and should, be. Thanks for listening, and helping our future generations.

Sincerely,
Sue Budd
St Louis Park, MN

Dear Senate Committee Administrator Timothy Bohl,

I am a leader with ISIAAH and have been working for comprehensive paid family and medical leave alongside other nonprofit leaders, business owners, and members of the MN House over the past year. This issue is important to me as a former senior-level business manager supervising teams of hard-working marketing research professionals ranging from entry level to PhD's. No matter the type of position my team members held, or their salary level, they all shared the need for (or possibility of the need for) paid family and medical leave.

Unfortunately, even though every Minnesotan deserves paid family and medical leave, where you work determines whether or not you have this benefit. I know, because I've needed this benefit and had very different experiences depending on where I worked at the time ... from being fired for daring to take maternity leave, all the way to my last employer who gave me the time off and flexible work schedule to spend with my elderly father before he died.

I am extremely disappointed that the Senate is pushing through a bill (SF4352) that does not guarantee paid family and medical leave be available to ALL Minnesotans, but instead leaves our ability to care for ourselves and our families in the hands of private insurance executives.

We've always been subject to different policies from different companies, SF4352 does nothing to change that fact. What's worse is the bill would allow companies to exclude workers from coverage for any reason at all -- pre-existing conditions, gender, age, or any other criteria the company chooses. This is not how we take care of each other in Minnesota. I'm asking the MN Senate to lead boldly to ensure all of us finally have access to paid family and medical leave.

Sincerely,
Mary Jo Malecha
New Brighton, MN

Dear Senate Committee Administrator Timothy Bohl,

Our country was founded on the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These unalienable rights cannot be met without the ability to care for oneself and ones family in times of need. Unalienable means without regard to what we look like or our income.

Recent examples have shown that a private insurance solution to care for people does not work. Examples include exorbitant insulin costs and hospital availability, regardless where you live, in the time of our current pandemic.

I respectfully demand that the Senate lead boldly to ensure every Minnesotan has access to paid family and medical leave.

Sincerely,
Edward Stuart
Saint Paul, MN

Dear Senate Committee Administrator Timothy Bohl,

[[WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY HERE]]

Some Considerations [[JUST FOR YOUR REFERENCE. DELETE THIS SECTION BEFORE SUBMITTING]]

- + Share why you believe every Minnesotan no matter what we look like or what's in our wallets deserves paid family and medical leave.
- + Express your concern that SF4352 does nothing to guarantee paid family and medical leave to all of us, but instead leaves our ability to care in the hands and whims of private insurance executives.
- + Demand that the Senate lead boldly to ensure every Minnesotan has access to paid family and medical leave.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Hammer
Northfield, MN