

Mandating paid leave: Costly for employers, employees

Employers are in the best position to design benefit packages that serve the distinct needs of their businesses and their employees. Minnesota employers compete for workers every day and consistently receive national recognition for providing some of the best places to work. If the state mandates expansive new benefits without regard for their relevance to the employer and its workforce, its industry or market, costs will go up. The results are reduced staff and job opportunities, hours or both – hurting workers and their families.

HF5 creates an expansive state-administered paid leave insurance program. Financed through a new tax on employers and employees, the program will fund partial wage replacement benefits for 12 weeks of paid parental and family leave and 12 weeks of paid medical leave. This is different, and in addition to, a separate proposal mandating that employers provide paid sick leave for routine or minor illnesses.

If enacted, Minnesota would be the only state in the nation with such expansive and expensive mandates in terms of eligibility, qualifying events, benefits and employer obligation.

Due to cost and complexity, only six other states – CA, NY, NJ, RI, MA, WA, and Washington, D.C. – have enacted versions of paid leave mandates.

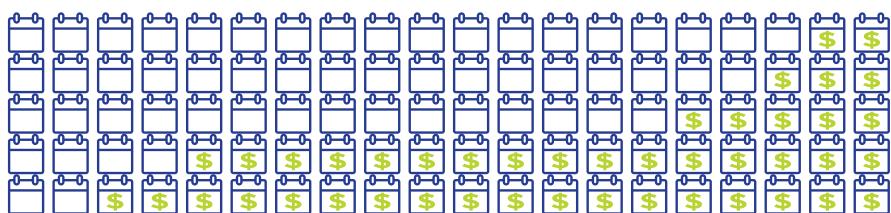
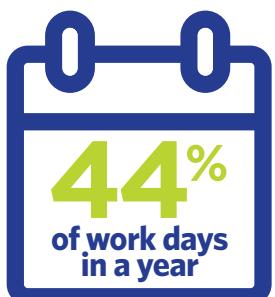


New leave mandates create needless bureaucracy and cost millions

- New mandates hurt employers and employees with a worker shortage already reaching a crisis. Employers use benefit packages to attract and retain quality employees – even without the state telling them to do so.
- Creating an expansive statewide mandate on employers to provide 12 weeks of paid parental and family leave and 12 weeks of paid medical leave would mean an employee could miss 24 weeks of work. That's 44 percent of workdays in a year.
- Businesses, particularly small businesses, already struggle to endure the costs associated with missed productivity of their workers. The cost to find temporary workers to fulfill their responsibilities in their absence is a double – or triple in some cases – tax on our job-creators.
- 1.2 million Minnesotans – almost half the state's workforce – work for small businesses.
- Many Minnesotans – both employers and employees – across the state do not want to pay increased taxes for a new state-run bureaucracy like MNLARS or MNsure – but cannot opt out under the proposal.

COSTS MATTER

24 weeks
of paid
leave =



The Legislature must act –

- Ensure changes proposed through the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry consider impacts on employers.
- Oppose one-size-fits-all mandates on employee benefits that would constrain employers' ability to conduct business.
- Preserve private-sector flexibility on wage, benefit and scheduling decisions.



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Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce
Associated Builders and Contractors
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce
Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Builders Association of the Twin Cities
Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA) St. Paul
Burnsville Chamber of Commerce
Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce
Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Elk River Area Chamber and Commerce
Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
Fergus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Mankato Growth, Inc.
Greater Minneapolis Building Owners and Managers Association
Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce
Hospitality Minnesota
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Iron Mining Association of MN
Lake City Area Chamber of Commerce
Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce
Litchfield Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Medical Alley Association
Metalcasters of Minnesota
MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce
Midwest Food Processors Association
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
Minnesota Bankers Association
Minnesota Beverage Association

Minnesota Business Partnership
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives
Minnesota Forest Industries
Minnesota Grocers Association
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