

To: Members of the MN House Committee On Taxes

From: Dawson Kimyon, Legislative Assistant to Senator Omar Fateh and Minnesotan

Dear Chair Marquart and members of the committee,

My name is Dawson Kimyon. I'm the Legislative Assistant to your colleague Senator Omar Fateh. I'm also a Minnesota resident and graduate of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I hold a B.S. in Professional Physics, which took me many years to complete. In the process of pursuing my degree, I accumulated around \$100k in student loans, both federal and state. I am fortunate to have a familial safety net and to be employed.

At the same time, I know that one major life event could put me dangerously close to living in poverty. As someone with so much student debt, I am unable to qualify for home ownership. It is also difficult for me to save enough money for a down payment. This is interfering with my growth as a professional and as a person, from building wealth and starting a family. Every member of this committee knows we don't take on political work because the pay and benefits are so good, we do it because we care about making Minnesotans' lives better. At the same time, engaging in this industry requires a major commitment and economic sacrifice compared to jobs in the private sector which pay more.

By passing this legislation, you will not only be making Minnesotans' lives better, you will be enfranchising Minnesotans to pursue careers where their passions lie, including those fields in which we desperately need workers - social work comes to mind. This is the right thing to do and I hope to see every member of the committee vote yes on this bill.

Solidarity,

Dawson Kimyon