



SEIUHealthcare

United for Quality Care

January 26, 2021

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Chair Rob Ecklund
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Ecklund:

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota represents 40,000 healthcare workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and self-directed homecare. On their behalf, I write to express our strong support for HF41 which would provide many of them with paid COVID-19 emergency leave.

For months, our members have been on the frontlines fighting this dangerous pandemic. Despite this essential work, many were left out of the provisions for paid emergency leave in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). As a result, when our members suspected they had been exposed to COVID-19 or needed to care for a child with suspected exposure, they all too often had to use their own personal paid leave or vacation time. They were forced to weigh their duty to protect co-workers and the public against their need to provide for their own family.

For example, Naomi Zeiss, a Registered Nurse at HealthPartners and member of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, had to use her personal time off to stay home with a quarantining child. She added, "healthcare workers should not be financially penalized for being honest and reporting exposure."

Where the Federal government has failed, Minnesota can fill the gap and provide the paid emergency leave frontline caregivers need to keep themselves and the public safe.

Sincerely yours,
Rick Varco
Political Director

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