



April 6, 2021

Representative Rob Ecklund
Chair, House Labor Committee
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Ecklund and members of the House Labor Committee:

I am writing to express our strong support of the DE amendment to the House Labor omnibus bill. This amendment prioritizes workplace safety, labor standards, and pandemic relief for working people in a time of crisis. It includes:

- The Emergency Rehire and Retention Act to ensure laid-off workers in industries hit hard by the pandemic can get their jobs back.
- DLI’s OSHA proposals, including federal penalty conformity, operating adjustment, and making citations public. Together, these proposals enhance the agency’s ability to ensure workplace safety.
- A requirement that oil refineries require outside contractors to have apprenticeship-level training to ensure workplace and community safety.
- Safe Workplaces for Meat and Poultry Processing Workers to provide needed protections for workers in a dangerous industry.
- Earned Sick and Safe Time so workers can take paid time off when they are sick or in a dangerous situation.
- The Essential Workers Emergency Leave Act to provide paid quarantine leave for workers on the front lines of the pandemic.
- Funding to implement and enforce new workplace safety and paid leave laws.

This pandemic has made it clearer than ever that working people need stronger workplace safety protections as well as paid leave to take care of themselves, their loved ones, and to protect public health.

If the DE amendment is adopted, we recommend a “yes” vote on HF 1670.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director



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