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RE: Letter of Support for HF7

March 2, 2021

Mr. Chair and Committee Members,

TakeAction Minnesota is a grassroots organization representing 55,000 individual Minnesotans and 22 organizational members across the state organizing for justice and democracy. We are writing in support of HF7.

Our health and wellbeing are tied together. That's one of the reasons why TakeAction Minnesota members organized to pass Earned Sick and Safe Time ordinances in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Duluth. Duluth's paid sick time ordinance was implemented on January 1, 2020, less than three months before the state's COVID-19 outbreak.

This bill recognizes that we can create a healthier, more just state by ensuring all working people, regardless of race, income, or zip code, have basic tools to meet their highest responsibilities. For TakeAction's members this looks like:

- Having the dignity to get well at home instead of showing up to work sick in a food court. Not having to worry about losing pay or getting fired for being sick, and not having to work next to co-workers who are sick;
- Being able to still make ends meet when there's inclement weather and no time to find last minute childcare for three young children;
- Resting and recovering from illness instead of showing up sick or without a voice to front-line jobs in retail and childcare.

Passing this bill ensures Minnesotans disproportionately denied paid sick time including women, people of color, and low-wage workers do not have to choose between caring for themselves or a loved one or missing a paycheck. Local governments in Minnesota have successfully passed and implemented this basic employment standard.

We strongly support HF7.

Sincerely,

Kenza Hadj-Moussa
Public Affairs Director