



FIGHTING FOR MINNESOTA WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Our state's economic recovery is built on the backs of working families, but too many of these Minnesotans are being left behind as the wealthy and well-connected get richer. In order to build an empowered workforce and a prospering economy we can all share in, House Democrats have put forward proposals that invest in workers, provide pathways to good jobs, support small businesses, and ensure our workplaces are safe.

Supporting Business Development

- We're investing in DEED's Redevelopment Program, which provides grants to local units of government to help prepare blighted properties for development.
- Our bill funds small business recovery grants, with amounts dedicated for businesses owned by veterans, women, or people of color.
- To support economically disadvantaged communities, another round of the popular Targeted Community Capital Projects Grants is included in this legislation, which were previously awarded to struggling businesses throughout the state.
- With the closing of the Canadian border, the businesses that rely on international travel have dealt with compounded difficulties, which is why we're appropriating funds to help establishments in that region.

Improving Workplace Safety

- The bill strengthens fair labor standards for agriculture and food processing workers, including updates to the Packinghouse Workers Bill of Rights, the law regulating the recruitment of food processing workers, and Minnesota's migrant labor law.
- DFLers are increasing penalties for workplace safety violations. If lawmakers don't take this action, the federal government will step in and take over the state OSHA program.
- Our budget increases funding for a successful logger safety initiative and requires most refinery workers to have apprenticeship-level training.
- We're addressing the rising injuries taking place at warehouses like Amazon's by passing proposals to increase transparency at these businesses to protect and empower workers.

Expanding Career Training and Apprenticeships

- Providing modern tools to the next generation of workers through Youth Tech Training and Youth Skills Training.
- DFLers are delivering new funding to the Labor Education and Advancement Program (LEAP) that encourages people of color and women to pursue apprenticeships.
- The bill creates a new veterans liaison to connect veterans with apprenticeships and careers in the building trades.

Investing in Our Workforce

- Our proposal contains investments aimed at promoting economic development opportunities, particularly for communities that have largely been left out and underrepresented.
- We're connecting new Minnesotans with employment opportunities through the Office of New Americans and the Interdepartmental Coordinating Council on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
- Lifting up women of color through investments in the Center for Economic Inclusion, the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, and the Coalition of Asian American leaders.
- Helping more parents return to work by increasing the number of child care providers through grant programs.

Strengthening Worker Economic Security

- We're passing our Paid Family & Medical Leave and Earned Sick & Safe Time proposals to ensure working Minnesotans are able to keep their job while facing the realities of an illness, a sick child, or an aging parent – increasing access to economic security for everyone.
- Expanding eligibility for the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund so that our hourly school workers are also included in this safety net.
- We're providing building and construction trade workers a two-year license fee holiday, including electricians, plumbers, pipefitters, and other dedicated, talented workers.
- DFLers are beefing up prevailing wage enforcement to ensure those employed on taxpayer-funded projects earn sustainable wages.
- We're working to ban anti-competitive “no-poach” clauses that keep wages low.

