



Chair Baker and Members of the House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE)—a union representing over 18,500 state workers across all Minnesota's agencies, boards and commissions—we ask that you oppose H.F. 1976.

This bill carves out employees covered by collective bargaining agreements and broadens exemptions for seasonal employees and employees at small businesses, making it more difficult for these workers to access the full Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) benefit. The positive impacts of access to PFML on workers and families are numerous, and the need for the program to be implemented as currently defined in statute is urgent.

PFML improves maternal and child health and women's participation in the workforce, increases paternal involvement in children's lives, and helps seniors age in place while ensuring their caregivers remain employed. Overall, it provides workers and families with a measure of economic security during life-changing events.

We oppose legislation such as H.F. 1976 that chips away at access to PFML for certain groups, as well as allows for private administration of a program that handles sensitive personal data on Minnesotans. Privatization of program oversight and administration enables more opportunities for fraud and mishandling of protected data.

We urge your opposition to H.F. 1976 and ask you to stand with Minnesota workers and families who overwhelmingly support PFML and look forward to implementation of the program as it is currently defined in statute.

Sincerely,

Sydney Spreck  
Political Affairs Coordinator  
Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE)