

Senator [FULL NAME]

Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W,  
St Paul, MN 55103

Dear Senator [LAST NAME],

I am a township officer serving the Township of [TOWNSHIP NAME], a member of the Minnesota Association of Townships. I am writing to express our strong support for Senator Carla Nelson's SF2587, which seeks to exempt Minnesota's townships from the state's paid family and medical leave program.

Minnesota's 1,776 townships are the foundation of grassroots government, staffed largely by part-time elected officials and volunteers who serve their communities with dedication and fiscal responsibility. The vast majority of Township Association Members, including our township, have no staff. It is the elected officials who do all of the work. While we appreciate the goals of the paid leave program, the realities of township governance make its implementation particularly burdensome for our members.

Townships typically operate with very limited budgets, raised directly from local taxpayers, and we do not have full-time employees. Applying the paid leave mandate to townships would present significant administrative and financial challenges, diverting funds from critical local services such as road maintenance, public safety, and community infrastructure.

Further, the paid leave program simply does not effectively accomplish its goals in our case. As elected officials, we cannot benefit from the protections it offers, for multiple reasons. First, we already control our compensation and schedules under Minn. Stat. 367.05. Second, it would appear to be in conflict with Minn. Stat. § 43A.17 subd. 10. Finally, as elected officials the only individuals who are allowed to fire us are the voters themselves—and their control over their elected officials can't be overridden. For all these reasons, as applied to townships the paid leave program is a burden without any benefits for anyone.

We respectfully urge you to support this important exemption to ensure that townships can continue to operate effectively and efficiently while maintaining essential services for Minnesota residents.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss this matter further. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to support our local communities.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]  
[Your Title]  
[Phone Number]  
[Email Address]