



MN AFL-CIO

October 9, 2013 · 🌐

...

"The nursing home industry is a tough business with lean margins, but there is enough money in the system to pay workers a decent minimum wage. Minnesota legislators, like all employers, can and should pay workers at least \$9.50." [#mnleg](#) [#RaiseTheWage](#)



MN2020.ORG

### MN2020 - Nursing Home Workers Need Support

Recently some legislators, Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk more prominently, who support the idea of raising the minimum wage, have expressed concern that a \$9.50 minimum wage would hurt Minnesota...

👍 4

1 share



MN AFL-CIO

June 10, 2019 · 🌐

...

[#Solidarity](#) with the workers at Guardian Angels nursing home in Elk River who stood up for their residents last week. We're proud of these [SEIU Healthcare Minnesota](#) union members!

# STAR NEWS



HOMETOWNSOURCE.COM

### This is why I went on a two-day strike this past week

This week I was one of the workers at the Guardian Angels nursing home here in Elk River who...

👍❤️ Coly Intemann, Casey Hudek and 33 others

4 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



MN AFL-CIO

August 21, 2020 · 🌐

...

When working people fight, we win!

# VICTORY!



**Following 24-hour Strike on July 20th,  
SEIU Healthcare MN Nursing Home  
Workers Win Strong New Contract!**



A STRONG, UNITED VOICE FOR  
MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE

# MINNESOTA AFL-CIO HELPING TO EMPOWER WORKERS TO REPORT UNSAFE CONDITIONS

*Aug 3 2020*

The Labor Movement's long history is populated with fights for safer working conditions and workplace safety laws. The COVID-19 pandemic has put worker safety back in the spotlight as working people across Minnesota and the nation face unprecedented concerns. In far too many states, workers who don't have the protection that comes from union membership are forced to choose between a paycheck and potentially life-threatening working conditions. But thanks to our state's unions and Governor Tim Walz, working people in our state now have tools to report unsafe COVID-19 working conditions.

Responding to calls from the Minnesota AFL-CIO and affiliated unions, Governor Tim Walz issued an emergency Executive Order ([https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-63%20Final\\_tcm1055-433759.pdf](https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-63%20Final_tcm1055-433759.pdf)) this spring to protect workers from retaliation when they report unsafe working conditions.

Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bill McCarthy thanked Governor Walz for continuing to actively seek the input of Minnesota's Labor Movement during the peacetime emergency and said, "The simple truth is that our economy cannot rebound unless employers are held accountable to implement safety measures to protect both workers and public health. Failing to do so would result in more workers falling sick and even more economic damage."

To better help working Minnesotans who don't have union protection, the Minnesota AFL-CIO created an online portal (<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/unsafe-working-conditions-due-to-covid-19-learn-about-your-right-to-refuse/>) for workers to report unsafe working conditions.

"We're receiving reports from workers in almost every single sector and none of them have the protection of a union," said Todd Dahlstrom, Organizing & Growth Director for the Minnesota AFL-CIO. "Many are customer-facing workers who are being forced into daily contact with people not wearing masks or practicing social distancing."

Dahlstrom follows up with every worker who submits the form. Depending on their particular situation, workers are either connected to the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation's worker navigators (<https://aflcio.org/2020/5/13/labor-pioneering-new-kind-relief-effort-twin-cities>), if they are experiencing financial

hardship, referred to an appropriate union if they are interested in organizing their workplace, or provided with assistance reporting unsafe conditions to the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry.

“The Department [of Labor and Industry] has been very responsive in taking action on the reports we’ve helped workers file,” Dahlstrom added. “Unions first emerged in response to unsafe and unfair workplaces and non-union working Minnesotans are learning why they are more relevant than ever today.”

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is continuing to urge working Minnesotans to report any unsafe COVID-19 conditions at [aflcio.mn/report](https://aflcio.mn/report) (<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/unsafe-working-conditions-due-to-covid-19-learn-about-your-right-to-refuse/>).

## Sign up for news and announcements

First Name	Last Name
Zipcode	Email
Cell Phone	I'd like to opt into text alerts from the MN AFL-CIO * <div>yes ▼</div>
<div>SUBMIT</div>	

---

## Contact Us

[mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org](mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org) (<mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org>).

651-227-7647

1-800-652-9004

175 Aurora Ave, St Paul, MN 55103

## Follow us on Social Media

[\\_\(/twitter.com/mnaflcio\)](https://twitter.com/mnaflcio)

[\\_\(/https://www.facebook.com/mnaflcio\)](https://www.facebook.com/mnaflcio)

.\_(<https://instagram.com/mnaflcio>).

.\_(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EdTUI8FgJeR3KiOqKwCWw>).

© 2024 Minnesota AFL-CIO. All political content prepared and paid for by the Minnesota AFL-CO Political Fund, 175 Aurora Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Designed & Built by [Tall Grass Digital LLC](http://www.tallgrassdigital.com) (<http://www.tallgrassdigital.com>).



A STRONG, UNITED VOICE FOR  
MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE

# FRONTLINE COALITION WELCOMES OVERDUE PASSAGE OF FRONTLINE WORKER PAY AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICES OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS

*Apr 29 2022*

A coalition (Minnesota AFL-CIO; SEIU Local 26; SEIU Local 284; ISAIAH / Faith in Minnesota; UFCW Local 1189; Minnesota Nurses Association; CTUL; Unidos MN; Committee to Protect Health Care; Education Minnesota) representing labor, faith, and community organizations released the following statement regarding the Frontline Worker Pay and Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund deal reached between the Minnesota Legislature and Governor Walz:

Frontline worker bonus checks are an overdue recognition to the Minnesotans who continue to keep our state safe, healthy, fed, and housed during the pandemic. Essential workers, who are mostly women and people of color, were underpaid and overlooked long before the pandemic. We appreciate this bonus, but we know that much more has to be done to ensure every worker is respected, protected and paid for what we are worth.

Over the last two legislative sessions, those working on the frontline and directly impacted by the lack of support, protection, and wages have fought in legislative meetings, workgroups, at the Capitol and marched in the streets for this recognition. It is a shame that we had to fight so hard — especially against attempts by legislative Republicans to exclude certain workers.

It's also shameful that the deal disproportionately favors big corporations and leaves out an expansion of Unemployment Insurance to hourly school workers. The state of Minnesota is handing businesses five times as much money as frontline workers in the form of \$2.7 billion for their Unemployment Insurance fund, which is exactly what was requested by the business community. Meanwhile, only a fraction of the funds requested by essential workers were honored.

The deal gives \$750 checks to over 600,000 frontline workers, which is an improvement over the deal struck in 2021, but it falls short of the proposals by the DFL to deliver \$1,500 bonus checks and invest \$160 million to ensure the hourly staff who make our schools work have the social safety net of Unemployment Insurance like

all other seasonal workers.

Frontline worker bonus checks, while ultimately incomparable to our sacrifices, represent a positive step toward the state that we deserve. Every Minnesotan deserves pay, benefits, and support that allow our families to have what we need to thrive and care for our families, including: Earned Sick and Safe Leave and Paid Family and Medical Leave, Unemployment Insurance access, safety on the job, and fully funded public education from pre-k through college. We can't go back to the way things were before the pandemic. We must create a better future for workers and all Minnesotans.

## **Minnesotans who have worked on the frontlines and directly impacted by this policy share their reactions**

**Ignacia Ambriz, a grocery store worker and member of Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL)** testified at a Frontline Worker Pay hearing in March: "I work in a large grocery store. During the pandemic I've had to regularly work 9-10 hours days and then return home to support my grandchildren through remote education. These bonus checks are not much, however the cost of living has increased greatly and it would help us pay our bills. Essential workers have been here keeping the economy running."

**Tracy Roscoe, a member of Kids Count On Us, initiative of ISAIAH, and teacher at Sandcastle Child Care Center in Saint Paul,** celebrates the impact Frontline Worker Bonus Pay will have for her and other essential workers across Minnesota and the opportunity this creates for state legislators to focus on deeper needs essential workers face on a daily basis: "These bonus pay checks are so important to the hundreds of thousands of people, like myself, who have been working on the frontlines since this pandemic started. As childcare providers, we care for and educate our communities' youngest Minnesotans. We allow parents to go to their jobs to provide for their families. We have put our health and the health of our families on the line for our state. Yet we have been chronically underpaid for our work for decades. These checks are a big step in the right direction, and I look forward to seeing lawmakers take on long-term, systemic solutions to address our state's growing childcare crisis."

**Eva Lopez, Janitor and Vice President of SEIU Local 26:** "Essential workers sacrificed a lot in the last two years, and I'm glad we will finally get some recognition for what we did to keep Minnesota running while many people stayed home. These checks will not bring back my fellow union members and all of our friends and family who died from COVID, but they are a sign of respect for the work we do to care for Minnesotans and keep us safe. Essential workers, mostly women and people of color, were underpaid and overlooked long before the pandemic, and while we appreciate the check, we know that much more has to be done to ensure every worker is respected, protected and paid what for what they are worth."

**Peter Altonen, UFCW 1189 member and employee at Mount Royal Fine Foods in Duluth:** "This bonus pay money is a validation of our commitment through the pandemic offering food to our communities and to help offset our costs that we endured to help keep us safe while we served our community. It was hard, especially in the

beginning of the pandemic when we really didn't understand how the virus was transmitted or how long it could live on surfaces. We were often the only places some people could go, so we saw an increase in customers and amount of product to stock."

**Mary C. Turner, RN, President of the Minnesota Nurses Association:** "For two years, frontline workers have shown up, even when we didn't have adequate PPE, hazard pay, retention bonuses, or paid COVID leave. I am thankful the Minnesota Legislature has finally shown up for nurses and other frontline workers. These payments won't solve the problems in our workplaces. They won't solve the understaffing or the unsafe and unsupportive working conditions our executives have created. But they will help nurses and other essential workers cover the costs of living on the frontline of the pandemic, and they will provide a measure of recognition for the sacrifices all essential workers continue to make."

**Maria C, Worthington MN hospitality worker leader and Emilio González food production worker leader, Richfield MN. Unidos MN.** "We are grateful for everyone that showed up and publicly demanded dignified treatment of all essential workers. The payments for workers like me are a good next step, we are beyond grateful and acknowledge the work it took from everyone. But it doesn't measure the sacrifice that workers endured across Minnesota. Knowing that we got a 750 payment while the wealthy few continue to benefit the most of our much needed rescue resources leaves us with mixed emotions. We are thankful to legislators and elected officials that sided with us all along. This step forward is indeed positive, and still there is a lot of work to do on behalf of essential workers across Minnesota. We will continue to organize on much needed worker centered solutions that can bring a fair share of the wealth that the work of our bodies produce."

## Sign up for news and announcements

I'd like to opt into text alerts from the MN AFL-CIO \*

yes ▼





## Contact Us

[mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org](mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org) [\(mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org\)](mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org)

651-227-7647

1-800-652-9004

175 Aurora Ave, St Paul, MN 55103

## Follow us on Social Media

[\\_\(/twitter.com/mnaflcio\)](https://twitter.com/mnaflcio)

[\\_\(/https://www.facebook.com/mnaflcio\)](https://www.facebook.com/mnaflcio)

[\\_\(/https://instagram.com/mnaflcio\)](https://instagram.com/mnaflcio)

[\\_\(/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EdTUI8FgJeR3KiOqKwCWw\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EdTUI8FgJeR3KiOqKwCWw)

© 2024 Minnesota AFL-CIO. All political content prepared and paid for by the Minnesota AFL-CO Political Fund, 175 Aurora Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Designed & Built by [Tall Grass Digital LLC](http://www.tallgrassdigital.com) [\(http://www.tallgrassdigital.com\)](http://www.tallgrassdigital.com)



# 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Minnesota AFL-CIO represents the shared voice, values, and priorities of our state's Labor Movement. We believe that no matter where we come from, what we look like, or how we pray; all working people deserve the dignity of a safe job with family sustaining wages; the security of affordable healthcare; and the freedom to care for ourselves and our loved ones without facing hardship. These are the values our Labor Movement strives for – not just for union members, but for all working people. Our key priorities for the 2020 Legislative Session reflect these values.

## **JOBS & PROJECTS INVESTMENT**

Local communities & public institutions have identified more than \$5 billion in needed construction projects throughout the state. We can create tens of thousands of family sustaining jobs by making a significant investment in our public infrastructure.

## **TAX FAIRNESS**

Progressive taxation, smart budgeting, and wise investments continues to keep Minnesota on strong fiscal ground. Despite regular budget surpluses, lawmakers should resist any attempts to cut taxes for big corporations and the wealthy few. Instead Legislators should consider rolling back the irresponsible corporate tax giveaways in last year's federal tax conformity legislation.

## **RAISE LABOR STANDARDS**

In Minnesota, we believe in a level playing field & that everyone should earn a fair return on their work. However, some of our labor standards don't reflect our values. It's time to raise standards for all workers by ensuring the 40-hour work week applies to every worker; stopping employers from fraudulently classifying employees as independent contractors; and, protecting Minnesota's gold standard OSHA program by conforming to federal penalties.

## **PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE**

Most working people don't have the freedom to take paid leave to care for themselves or their families. That's why we're co-chairing the Minnesotans for Paid Family & Medical Leave Coalition. Our legislation would provide partial wage replacement for up to 12 weeks of leave and be funded by a small premium split between employers & employees - less than \$2 per week.

## **AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE**

All working people deserve the dignity of affordable healthcare for themselves & their families. We support policies that will extend affordable and accessible healthcare options such as making MinnesotaCare a public insurance option on MNSure & holding pharma and insurance companies accountable for exorbitant prescription drug costs.

## **FREEDOM TO DRIVE**

There are approximately 95,000 Minnesotans without a pathway to citizenship. That means these community members do not have access to driver's licenses in the state. By extending the opportunity to earn a driver's license to all Minnesotans regardless of immigration status, we can improve public safety for everyone, grow economic prosperity, and promote community building for all.

In addition to these issues, the Minnesota AFL-CIO also supports many of the legislative priorities of our affiliated unions and community allies.





# CONNECT WITH US **MINNESOTA** afl-cio

A STRONG, UNITED VOICE FOR MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE



facebook.com/mnaflcio



@MNAFLCIO



aflcio.mn/email



@mnaflcio



TEXT MN TO 235-246



175 AURORA AVE.; SAINT PAUL, MN 55103 - 651-227-7647 - MNAFLCIO.ORG





A STRONG, UNITED VOICE FOR  
MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE

# MINNESOTA AFL-CIO ANNOUNCES 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

*Jan 21 2021*

The Minnesota AFL-CIO, the statewide federation of more than 1,000 local unions who represent more than 300,000 working people, announced its 2021 legislative priorities aimed at crisis relief, maintaining and expanding workplace rights and safety, extending paid leave for all workers, tax justice, and creating jobs & infrastructure.

“These legislative priorities represent the Labor Movement’s shared state policy vision and our commitment to racial and economic justice,” said Minnesota AFL-CIO President Bill McCarthy. “Working Minnesotans have been tested over the last year like never before and are ready for a more just and equitable state for everyone, no exceptions.”

## Crisis Relief

2020 was the year that brought our state’s longstanding racial and economic disparities into stark focus. COVID-19 and its unequal economic impact put extreme strain on Minnesota’s frontline workers and made the existing inequalities that Black, Indigenous, and workers of color experience even worse. George Floyd’s murder at the hands of police and the civil unrest that followed renewed the calls for justice in Minnesota and across our nation. While we have a new federal government, Minnesotans can’t wait for Washington to deliver on urgent needs like **emergency COVID-19 paid leave, cash relief for lower income Minnesotans, aid to rebuild neighborhoods impacted by civil unrest, and substantial investments in emergency and affordable housing.**

## Workplace Rights & Safety

Governor Walz’s emergency executive orders to protect workers during the pandemic, such as the right to report unsafe conditions without retaliation, has put worker safety at the forefront of state policy. **Minnesota’s Labor Movement will fight for additional worker safety provisions and oppose all efforts to end the peacetime emergency that would remove critical protections for working Minnesotans in the pandemic.**

## Paid Leave

All workers should have the freedom to care for themselves and the people they love without losing pay. While many higher paid workers have access to both long and short-term paid leave, lower paid workers are often forced to choose between a paycheck and their health or their loved ones. If we want to build a truly equitable state for Minnesotans, no matter where we come from or what we look like, we should make **paid sick & safe days and paid family & medical leave** universal.

## Tax Justice

When we raised tax rates on the highest incomes early last decade, it led to all-day Kindergarten, stable budgets, and consistent investments in infrastructure and public services. With COVID-19 putting a hole in the state budget and increased economic needs, we can't afford to make any cuts and must raise **new revenue**. We should justly fund the government Minnesotans need in a way that reflects our values of equity, dignity, and opportunity. Unlike most workers and small businesses, many of the richest Minnesotans and big corporations have prospered during the pandemic. **Those who have prospered during these difficult times need to do their part as fellow Minnesotans and pay their fair share in taxes.**

## Jobs & Infrastructure

One of the best things Minnesota can do to emerge quickly from the economic crisis is to **invest in infrastructure like roads, bridges, transit, and public buildings**. Legislative action on **infrastructure investments that require prevailing wage, apprenticeships, licensing, labor standards, and responsible procurement policies** will make workers safer and create family-sustaining union jobs that put money back into communities and give more workers a voice on the job. Interest rates are historically low, and now is the perfect time to invest.

In addition to these 2021 priorities, the Minnesota AFL-CIO will support affiliate unions' legislative work.

## Sign up for news and announcements



Cell Phone

I'd like to opt into text alerts from the MN AFL-CIO \*

yes ▼

---

## Contact Us

[mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org](mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org) [\(mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org\)](mailto:mnaflcio@mnaflcio.org)

651-227-7647

1-800-652-9004

175 Aurora Ave, St Paul, MN 55103

## Follow us on Social Media

[\\_\(/twitter.com/mnaflcio\)](https://twitter.com/mnaflcio)

[\\_\(/https://www.facebook.com/mnaflcio\)](https://www.facebook.com/mnaflcio)

[\\_\(/https://instagram.com/mnaflcio\)](https://instagram.com/mnaflcio)

[\\_\(/https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EdTUI8FgJeR3KiOqKwCWw\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1EdTUI8FgJeR3KiOqKwCWw)

© 2024 Minnesota AFL-CIO. All political content prepared and paid for by the Minnesota AFL-CO Political Fund, 175 Aurora Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Designed & Built by [Tall Grass Digital LLC](http://www.tallgrassdigital.com) [\(http://www.tallgrassdigital.com\)](http://www.tallgrassdigital.com)

# 2022 PRIORITIES

During the 2022 legislative session, the MN AFL-CIO continued to prioritize the needs of workers most impacted by the pandemic, defended wage theft protections, and advocated for Paid Family and Medical Leave as well as a bonding bill to create family-sustaining jobs.

As co-chairs of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, MN AFL-CIO advocated to extend the COVID-19 Workers' Compensation presumption for first responders and healthcare workers through Jan. 13, 2023. It was the first bill to pass last session.

We also successfully defended the 2019 Wage Theft Prevention Act for the third year in a row from attempts to undo some of the law's key provisions that ensure workers know what they are supposed to be paid and that penalties are adequate to deter employers from violating the law.

And we continued to push for \$1 billion for frontline worker pay to recognize the sacrifices that nurses, grocery store workers, meatpackers, transit drivers, and more made during the pandemic. Senate Republicans wanted to give only \$250 million to a narrow set of healthcare workers. In the end, frontline workers standing together in solidarity won \$500 million without cutting anyone out.

As co-chairs of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Coalition, we again got our bill through the DFL House but continued to be blocked from getting a hearing in the Senate. Republicans, feeling the pressure to do something on this issue, offered an insurance company-friendly proposal that would not guarantee anyone PFML. We will continue to press for a universal social insurance program that provides 12 weeks of partial wage replacement for workers who need time off to

care for their own serious illness, a loved one, or to bond with a new child.

Since it was a traditional bonding year, we were disappointed the Legislature did not get a bonding bill done, especially with the opportunity to leverage federal dollars from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We will continue to support a large bonding bill next session to upgrade and maintain Minnesota's infrastructure while creating good family-sustaining jobs for years to come.

Following nearly a decade of divided government, Labor-endorsed Governor Tim Walz and pro-Labor majorities in both the House and Senate are now leading state government, presenting a historic opportunity for working Minnesotans. The Minnesota AFL-CIO is ready to lead with bold legislative priorities to create a more just and equitable state for working people, no matter what we look like, where we work, or where we live.

## **Paid Family & Medical Leave**

We believe that all workers should have the freedom to care for themselves and the people they love without having to sacrifice a paycheck. Too often workers, especially people of color and workers in Greater Minnesota, are forced to immediately go back to work

following the birth or adoption of a child, go into debt during a long-term illness, or not be there when a sick loved one needs care. The time for a state-administered universal Paid Family & Medical Leave Program has come. With a broad statewide pool covering all workers, and a modest shared premium, we can level the playing field for both workers and small businesses, while addressing our state's racial and geographic economic disparities.

## **Increase & Expand Workers' Compensation**

In 2013, the Minnesota AFL-CIO successfully led the effort to include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the state's Workers' Compensation program. While first responders now qualify for PTSD-related claims, healthcare workers like nurses do not.

Given the challenges that healthcare workers face, both during and after the pandemic, it's time for nurses to qualify for PTSD-related workers' compensation. It's also time to update our workers' compensation system. Far too many workers experience out of pocket costs and delays for important procedures due to antiquated rules.





## **Strengthen Worker Protections & Freedoms**

In less than three years, Minnesota and the rest of the nation experienced a global pandemic, racial reckoning, and threats to democracy. In that wake, workers are standing up and fighting for rights and a voice in the workplace in ways not seen in more than a generation.

These workers are fighting back against economic injustice and energizing the labor movement with unparalleled enthusiasm and commitment. All workers should have the right to organize and collectively bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions, but all too often, employers find ways within and around our labor laws to block workers from exercising those rights. We will work to remove barriers to organizing and to strengthen workers' rights to collectively bargain.

## **Supporting our Affiliates & Community Allies**

We support our affiliated unions and community allies in moving their legislative priorities:

- Abortion & Reproductive Rights
- Apprenticeship Readiness
- Drivers' Licenses for All
- Earned Sick & Safe Time
- Education Funding
- Expand Prevailing Wage Coverage & Enforcement
- Federal IIJA State Funding Share
- Film Production Tax Credit
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Housing Investments
- Infrastructure Investment
- Keep the Nurses at the Bedside
- Labor Standards Boards
- Meatpacking Health and Safety
- MinnesotaCare Buy-In
- Pensions
- Progressive Taxation
- Public Employee Relations Board Funding
- Railroad Workplace Safety
- Refinery Safety
- Restore the Vote
- Safe Communities
- Safe Staffing in Healthcare
- Transportation Funding
- UI for Hourly School Workers
- Warehouse Worker Safety



2023's Legislative session set Minnesota on a path towards becoming the best state for working people in the nation with historic gains in labor standards and protections. Now it's time to continue building a state where every working Minnesotan, no matter what they look like, where they live, or what type of work they do, has a safe workplace, a job with family-sustaining pay & benefits, a dignified retirement, and the freedom to organize and join a union. The Minnesota AFL-CIO's 2024 Legislative Priorities are another step towards that vision.

## Protect 2023's Historic Progress

History shows that every time working people successfully join together to improve their conditions, opponents fight back with an attempt to return to the status quo. As we've done in the past, Minnesota's Labor Movement will defend the historic gains we won in 2023. **We will defend new worker freedoms and protections like paid family & medical leave, expanded union rights like the ban on captive audience meetings, and more.**

## Crack Down on Worker Misclassification

Working people have an expectation that state and federal laws designed to protect them will apply no matter where they work. Sadly, far too many employers across industries break the rules to save money by classifying workers as independent contractors while demanding the same expectations as if they were employees.

Misclassification deprives working people of all of the longstanding labor rights and protections like minimum wage, workers compensation, overtime pay, access to unemployment benefits, the right to collectively bargain, as well as the hard-fought progress we made in 2023 on new paid leave laws and laws strengthening collective bargaining rights. **It's time for Minnesota to strengthen and streamline enforcement of our worker misclassification laws to discourage this unfair and illegal practice.**

## Allow Striking Workers to Access Unemployment Insurance

Collective action – like going on strike or even threatening to go on strike – is still the most effective way for workers to improve their pay and conditions. However, a strike is a tactic of last resort because it often means no pay for workers and families. Even though unemployment insurance payments don't come anywhere near a livable income, it

would allow a worker to put food on the table and meet the bare minimum of family expenses until they return to work. Our nation's labor laws remain heavily skewed in favor of employers – who can temporarily replace workers, stall negotiations, make threats, & cut off healthcare. **It's time to balance the scales between workers and management by allowing working Minnesotans to access unemployment insurance while on strike.**

## Supporting our Affiliates & Community Allies

We support our affiliated unions and community allies in moving their legislative priorities:

- 40-hour workweek
- ESP Bill of Rights
- ERA
- Healthcare worker anti-retaliation protections
- Hospital safety and transparency
- Infrastructure investments
- MinnesotaCare expansion/public option
- Limit privatization of public services
- Pro-organizing PELRA updates
- Railroad Workplace Safety
- Broadband Standards

What happens at the State Capitol impacts working people in every corner of Minnesota. It's why the Minnesota AFL-CIO and members of our affiliated unions advocate for pro-labor legislation and fight to stop any attack on our rights. With a closely divided Legislature for the next two years, it will be vital to defend the historic gains we won in 2023 and 2024 and continue Minnesota's progress towards becoming the best state for working people.

## **Protect Working Minnesotans**

2023 and 2024 saw victories that grew workers' protections and freedoms like Paid Family & Medical Leave, a ban on anti-union captive audience meetings, expanded prevailing wage, unemployment insurance for school workers, greater freedom to organize, and more. **Minnesota's Labor Movement is resolved to fight any attempt to roll back these historic wins.**

## **A State Budget for Workers & Families**

From public schools and healthcare to water quality and construction – Minnesota's two-year state budget impacts workers, retirees, and their families in so many ways. As a Labor Movement, our goal is to make sure the next **state budget provides the necessary resources for Minnesotans of every color and in every zip code to have the freedom to provide for their families and thrive.**

## **Infrastructure Bonding Bill**

From roads, bridges, public buildings, water treatment, and more – there is critical infrastructure across our state that needs improvement. Every dollar we spend on infrastructure keeps tradespeople working, who in turn spend money in their communities. **Investing in infrastructure should be a priority for lawmakers from every corner of our state.**



## **Ending Misclassification Fraud**

Working people have an expectation that state and federal laws designed to protect them will apply no matter where they work. Sadly, far too many employers across industries break the rules to save money by classifying workers as independent contractors while demanding the same expectations as if they were employees.

Minnesota took major steps in strengthening enforcement of our existing misclassification laws last year. **It's now time to strengthen our laws to stop employers from wrongly misclassifying and exploiting workers who should be treated as employees.**

## **Unemployment Insurance for Striking Workers**

Collective action – like going on strike or even threatening to go on strike – is still the most effective way for workers to improve their pay and conditions. However, a strike is a tactic of last resort because it often means no pay for workers and families. Even though unemployment insurance

payments don't come anywhere near a livable income, it would allow a worker to put food on the table and meet the bare minimum of family expenses until they return to work. Our nation's labor laws remain heavily skewed in favor of employers – who can temporarily replace workers, stall negotiations, make threats, or cut off healthcare. **It's time to balance the scales between workers and management by continuing the fight for Minnesotans to access unemployment insurance while on strike.**