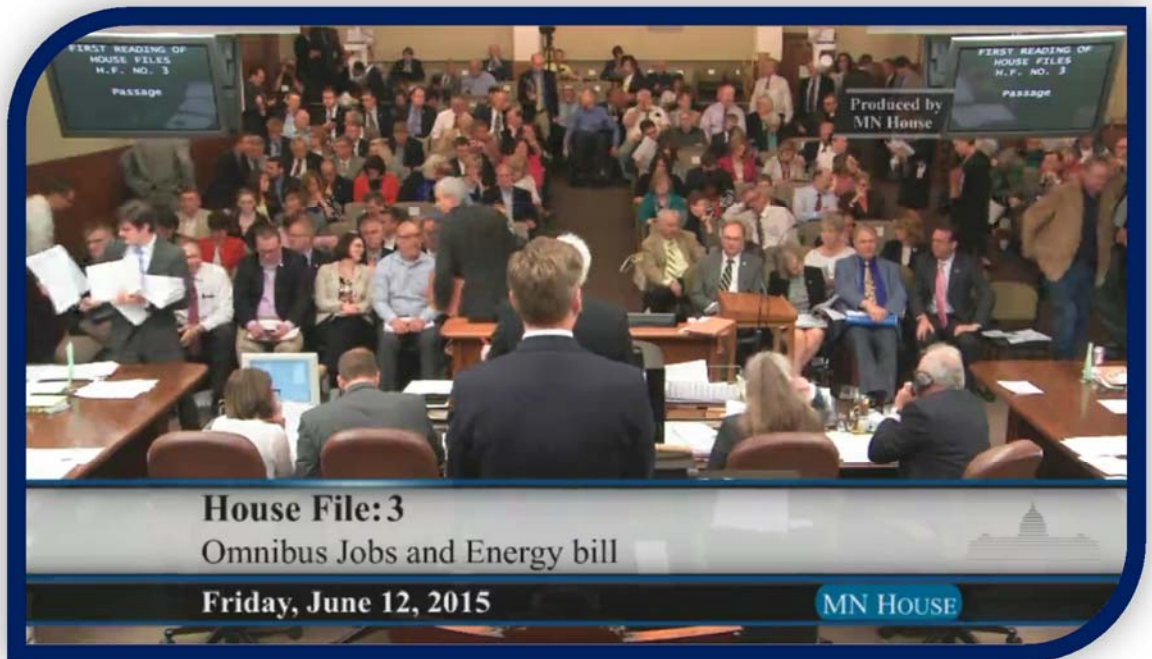


MINNESOTA AFL-CIO 2015 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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INTRODUCTION



This Legislative Report includes:

Tables showing key 2015 votes: Grids showing whether legislators supported or opposed working families with their votes. The numbered columns in the tables correspond to the numbered votes for the appropriate legislative body. Vote description page references are also included on the grids to more easily find the corresponding vote description. (pgs. 5-9)

Descriptions of key votes: Numbered explanations of votes taken in the Senate and the House that include the action voted on (motion, amendment, passage, etc.), together with the Minnesota AFL-CIO's position, the vote outcome and vote totals. (pgs. 10-16)

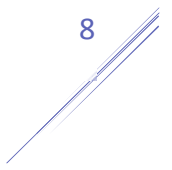
Definition of right and wrong votes: A legislator's vote is recorded as "Right" (R), supporting the Minnesota AFL-CIO position, or "Wrong" (W), opposing the Minnesota AFL-CIO position. If the legislator was absent or did not vote, "Not Voting" (NV) is recorded.

Lifetime Voting Records: The Minnesota AFL-CIO Lifetime Voting Records of current members of the House and Senate are included on the House and Senate grids in the far right column. Only actual "R" or "W" are counted in calculating the percentage.

Notes on how votes are selected: Votes have been selected for their accuracy as a gauge of legislators' views. For this reason, unanimous or wide-margin votes are avoided, unless there are no other significant votes available on an important issue. These votes frequently reveal a legislator's true position on an issue more clearly than lopsided votes on a bill's passage.

***Sources:** Information sources used to compile this record include the journals of the Minnesota House and Senate, the text of bills, the publications *Session Weekly* and *Session Briefly*, and affiliate websites. The Minnesota AFL-CIO is solely responsible for compiling and publishing this voting record. Questions or comments may be directed to the Minnesota AFL-CIO Legislative Director, Jennifer Schaubach, at 651-227-7647 or 1-800-652-9004.*





HOUSE	DISTRICT	2015 Voting Percentage	KEY TO SYMBOLS: (R) Voted with the MN AFL-CIO position (W) Voted against the MN AFL-CIO position (NV) Absent or Not Voting																					Lifetime Voting Percentage '15
			Vote description page reference:																					
			12			13				14				15				16	11			12		
REPRESENTATIVE			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Pelowski, Gene (DFL)	28A	67%	R	W	W	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	W	W	R	R	R	R	81%
Peppin, Joyce (R)	34A	0%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	1%
Persell, John (DFL)	05A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Petersburg, John (R)	24A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	20%
Peterson, Roz (R)	56B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	10%
Pierson, Nels (R)	26B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	10%
Pinto, Dave (DFL)	64B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	27B	90%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	94%
Pugh, Cindy (R)	33B	5%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	5%
Quam, Duane (R)	25A	5%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	2%
Rarick, Jason (R)	11B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	10%
Rosenthal, Paul (DFL)	49B	94%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	92%
Runbeck, Linda (R)	38A	10%	NV	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	17%
Sanders, Tim (R)	37B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	13%
Schoen, Dan (DFL)	54A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Schomacker, Joe (R)	22A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	11%
Schultz, Jennifer (DFL)	7A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Scott, Peggy (R)	35B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	5%
Selcer, Yvonne (DFL)	48A	95%	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	93%
Simonson, Erik (DFL)	07B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Slocum, Linda (DFL)	50A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	98%
Smith, Dennis (R)	34B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	10%
Sundin, Mike (DFL)	11A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Swedzinski, Chris (R)	16A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	11%
Theis, Tama (R)	14A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	13%
Thissen, Paul (DFL)	61B	94%	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	NV	R	NV	R	98%
Torkelson, Paul (R)	16B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	NV	9%
Uglem, Mark (R)	36A	14%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	33%
Urdahl, Dean (R)	18A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	24%
Vogel, Bob (R)	20A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	10%
Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	63B	95%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	93%
Ward, JoAnn (DFL)	53A	100%	R	R	R	R	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	R	NV	NV	NV	R	NV	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Whelan, Abigail (R)	35A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	10%
Wills, Anna (R)	57B	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	9%
Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	46A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NV	R	R	R	98%
Yarusso, Barb (DFL)	42A	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Youakim, Cheryl (DFL)	46B	100%	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
Zerwas, Nick (R)	30A	10%	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	9%



HOUSE & SENATE BILL VOTES & DESCRIPTIONS

Senate vote # 1

SF 888 (*Sen. Tom Saxhaug, D-Grand Rapids/Rep. Sarah Anderson, D-Plymouth*) – This was the vote on the original Omnibus State Government Finance bill. Unlike the House's original version, which would have likely caused layoffs, the Senate's first version contained no outsourcing, layoffs, money taken from SEGIP or cuts to state agency budgets.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

Senate vote: 36 Yea – 27 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 2070; 4/20/2015*)

Senate vote # 2

SF 878 (*Sen. Ron Latz, D-St. Louis Park/Rep. Tony Cornish, R-Vernon Center*) – This amendment to the Omnibus Judiciary bill would have eliminated the Voting Rights Restoration provisions. The provision was unfortunately later removed in conference committee.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

Senate vote: 23 Yea – 39 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 2556-57; 4/23/15*)

Senate vote # 3

SF 1458 (*Sen. Tony Lourey, D-Kerrick/Rep. Matt Dean, R-Dellwood*) – This amendment, offered by Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Vernon Center), to the Omnibus Health & Human Services bill would have eliminated MNSure.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

Senate vote: 25 Yea – 34 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 2792-95; 4/24/15*)

Senate vote # 4

SF 1458 (*Sen. Tony Lourey, D-Kerrick/Rep. Matt Dean, R-Dellwood*) – An amendment, offered by Sen. Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa), to the Omnibus Health & Human Services bill that would have prohibited Minnesota from running a state-based health care exchange.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

Senate vote: 23 Yea – 36 Nay (*Senate journal pgs. 2797-98; 4/24/15*)

Senate vote # 5

SF 1458 (*Sen. Tony Lourey, D-Kerrick/Rep. Matt Dean, R-Dellwood*) – An amendment, offered by Sen. Dave Thompson (R-Lakeville), to the Omnibus Health & Human Services bill that would have capped home care dues.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

Senate vote: 23 Yea – 37 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 2801; 4/24/15*)

Senate vote # 6

SF 1647 (*Sen. Scott Dibble, D-Minneapolis/Rep. Tim Kelly, R-Red Wing*) – This amendment offered by Sen. Osmek (R-Mound) to the Omnibus Transportation bill would have removed the two-person crew language for railroads.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

Senate vote: 15 Yea – 44 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 2916; 4/27/15*)



Senate vote # 7/House vote #18

SF 1120 (*Sen. Kathy Sheran, D-Mankato/Rep. Tony Cornish, R-Vernon Center*) – Passage of the assault protections for state employees bill, which makes it a felony for a patient at a secure treatment facility to assault an employee by inflicting demonstrable bodily harm or intentionally throwing or transferring urine, blood, semen or feces onto the employee. These felonies may be punishable by up to two years of imprisonment or a fine of up to \$4000.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

Senate vote: 40 Yea – 23 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 2930; 4/28/15*)

House vote: 121 Yea – 6 Nay (*House journal pg. 4383; 5/6/15*)

Senate vote # 8/House vote #19

SF 280 (*Sen. Jim Metzen, D-So. St. Paul/Rep. Jim Knobloch, R-St. Cloud*) – Final passage of the state labor agreements and compensation plans ratification bill for those from the Minnesota Nurses Association, Minnesota State College Faculty, Inter Faculty Organization, MnSCU Personnel Plan for Administrators and the Minnesota Law Enforcement Association.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

Senate vote: 50 Yea – 13 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 3461; 5/11/15*)

House vote: 116 Yea – 15 Nay (*House journal pg. 4501; 5/14/15*)

Senate vote # 9/House vote #20

SF 5 (*Sen. Teri Bonoff, D-Minnetonka/Rep. Bud Nornes, R-Fergus Falls*) – Final passage of the Omnibus Higher Education Finance conference committee report. The conference committee report failed to provide the full MnSCU request of \$142 million for employee compensation increases and the 3% inflationary increase for operating costs. The full allotment to freeze tuition was also not included, despite a significant increase in money for tuition relief.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

Senate vote: 57 Yea – 8 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 3689; 5/17/15*)

House vote: 71 Yea – 57 Nay (*House journal pg. 4875; 5/17/15*)

Senate vote # 10

SF 113 (*Sen. Sandra Pappas, D-St. Paul/Rep. Rena Moran, D-St. Paul*) – Sen. Sandra Pappas (D-St. Paul) made a motion to take this bill, a resolution urging Congress to remove the Equal Rights Amendments ratification deadline, from the table.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

Senate vote: 39 Yea – 24 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 3816; 5/17/15*)

Senate vote # 11

SF 113 (*Sen. Sandra Pappas, D-St. Paul/Rep. Rena Moran, D-St. Paul*) – This is the vote on the resolution urging Congress to remove the Equal Rights Amendments ratification deadline. The companion, HF 212 carried by Rep. Rena Moran (D-St. Paul) was never given a hearing in the House.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

Senate vote: 55 Yea – 6 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 3817; 5/17/15*)



Senate vote # 12/House vote #21

SF 888 (*Sen. Tom Saxhaug, D-Grand Rapids/Rep. Sarah Anderson, D-Plymouth*) – Conference Committee report on the Omnibus State Government Finance bill. A provision in this bill changed current law and now allows Minnesota counties to bypass the state auditor and hire private-sector accountants to conduct annual financial reviews.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

Senate vote: 44 Yea – 21 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 4574; 5/18/15*)

House vote: 71 Yea – 61 Nay (*House journal pg. 5837; 5/18/15*)

Senate vote # 13

SS - HF 1 (*Rep. Jenifer Loon, R-Eden Prairie/Sen. Chuck Wiger, D-Maplewood*) – Special Session Omnibus Education Finance bill. Family and early childhood appropriations increased by \$100.5 million, under the bill. The largest base increase would be \$48.25 million in early learning scholarships - a \$17 million increase over what was included in the regular session education finance bill vetoed previously by the governor. It also increased school readiness funding by \$30.75 million and a \$10 million increase to Head Start (which received zero increase in funding in the vetoed bill). It also included an additional \$12.5 million investment to help serve over 19,000 American Indian students and \$5 million more for Bureau of Indian Education schools across the state, and provided \$4 million in new funding for the Northside Achievement Zone and St. Paul Promise Neighborhood.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

Senate vote: 53 Yea – 12 Nay (*Senate journal pg. 19; 6/12/15*)

House vote # 1

HF 2 (*Rep. Jenifer Loon, R-Eden Prairie/Sen. Eric Pratt, R-Prior Lake*) – Final passage of the alternative teacher licensure bill, which would end seniority as the primary factor in determining teacher layoffs, creating a subjective process, including peer reviews, to be used despite bargaining agreements already in place between the teachers and the districts. This attack on labor showed a blatant disrespect for the bargaining process where both employees and management have already reached agreement and signed collective bargaining agreements.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 70 Yea – 63 Nay (*House journal pgs. 698-699; 3/5/15*)

House vote # 2

HF 1555 (*Rep. Dave Baker, R-Willmar/Sen. Matt Schmit, D-Red Wing*) – Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) made a motion to table the Working Parents Act Minority Report that was offered by Rep. Raymond Dehn (D-Minneapolis).

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 69 Yea – 61 Nay (*House journal pgs. 1229-30; 3/23/15*)

House vote # 3

HF 1027 (*Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington/Sen. Gary Dahms, R-Redwood Falls*) – Final passage of the tip penalty bill. Under this proposal waiters and other tipped workers would be penalized and earn a wage lower than the state minimum. The proposed lower-tier wage in this bill was a *dollar* less than the new \$9 an hour minimum that was set to go into effect Aug. 1, 2015, as part of minimum wage *increase* finally enacted in 2014 that gradually increased the minimum wage and indexed it to inflation. The bill repealed a part of current statute that prohibits the counting of employee tips toward the minimum wage, essentially subsidizing wages for the restaurant and hospitality industry and reducing wages for servers and other tipped workers.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 78 Yea – 55 Nay (*House journal pg. 1355; 3/23/15*)



House vote # 4

HF 4 (*Rep. Tim Kelly, R-Red Wing/Sen. Scott Dibble, D-Minneapolis*) – Rep. Frank Hornstein (D-Minneapolis) offered this amendment to the Omnibus Transportation finance bill to assess the railroads for safety improvements across the state.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 59 Yea – 73 Nay (*House journal pg. 2377; 4/21/15*)

House vote # 5

HF 843 (*Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-/Sen. Jim Metzen, D-So. St. Paul*) – Amendment offered to the Omnibus Jobs bill by Rep. Melissa Hortman (D-Brooklyn Park) that increased funding to the Department of Commerce for telecom regulation and deleted the language deregulating VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 70 Yea – 58 Nay (*House journal pgs. 2778-79; 4/22/15*)

House vote # 6

HF 843 (*Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington/Sen. Jim Metzen, D-So. St. Paul*) – Amendment offered to the Omnibus Jobs bill by Rep. Ryan Winkler (D-Golden Valley) to remove the local interference provisions.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 73 Yea – 56 Nay (*House journal pg. 2784; 4/22/15*)

House vote # 7

HF 843 (*Rep. Pat Garofalo, R- Farmington/Sen. Jim Metzen, D-St. Paul*) – Amendment offered to the Omnibus Jobs bill by Rep. Melissa Hortman (D-Brooklyn Park) reinstating the Renewable Energy Standards. Ultimately withdrawn.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 58 Yea – 71 Nay (*House journal pgs. 2785-86; 4/22/15*)

House vote # 8

HF 843 (*Rep. Pat Garofalo, R- Farmington/Sen. Jim Metzen, D-St. Paul*) – Amendment offered to the Omnibus Jobs bill by Rep. Melissa Hortman (D-Brooklyn Park) to Rep. Pat Garofalo's (R-Farmington) amendment on climate change.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 58 Yea – 71 Nay (*House journal pg. 2786; 4/22/15*)



House vote # 9

HF 843 (*Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington/Sen. Jim Metzen, D-So. St. Paul*) – Final passage of the Omnibus Jobs bill. It is very difficult to refer to this bill as a “jobs” bill. It included several damaging provisions, including:

- A reduction in the Workforce Development Fee from .1 to .08 which would reduce collections. There would be increased funding of activities **not** related to dislocated workers. The projected net impact on local areas was a 50% reduction in state dislocated worker funds to serve clients;
- Tip penalty (*see House vote #3, pg. 12*);
- Reduced agency funding for:
 - o Department of Employment and Economic Development: \$16.63 million
 - o Minnesota Housing Finance Agency: \$10.55 million
 - o Public Utilities Commission: \$1.45 million
 - o Bureau of Mediation Services: \$900,000
- Additional unemployment insurance tax reduction for business to the tune of \$2 million that would threatened the solvency of the trust fund;
- Telecom/VoIP deregulation;
- Cuts to the Minnesota Job Creation and Investment Fund;
- Local interference - a provision that would have prohibited local governments from implementing any laws such as a higher minimum wage, paid family leave, earned sick and safe time, fair scheduling, or stronger wage theft protections.
- Drastic changes to Minnesota’s RES (renewable energy standards)

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 73 Yea – 56 Nay (*House journal pg. 2789; 4/22/15*)

House vote # 10

HF 844 (*Rep. Jenifer Loon, R-Eden Prairie/Sen. Chuck Wiger, D-St. Paul*) – The House DFL education funding plan would have increase E-12 spending by \$799 million over base and included a 2% per year formula increase, special education funding, long-term maintenance aid, teacher development revenue and a phase in of 4 year old prekindergarten among other initiatives. The proposal was brought up in the form of a minority report on the House floor by Rep. Mary Murphy (D-Hermantown), but was immediately tabled by the majority with this motion by Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers).

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 69 Yea – 59 Nay (*House journal pg. 2857; 4/23/15*)

House vote # 11

SF 888 (*Sen. Tom Saxhaug, D-Grand Rapids/Rep. Sarah Anderson, S-Plymouth*) – This amendment offered by Rep. Ryan Winkler (D-Golden Valley) would have required the legislative auditor to investigate and evaluate the use of money to influence voters and political campaigns that are not required to be publicly disclosed.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 57 Yea – 72 Nay (*House journal pg. 3283; 4/24/15*)

House vote # 12

SF 888 (*Sen. Tom Saxhaug, D-Grand Rapids/Rep. Sarah Anderson, S-Plymouth*) – This amendment offered by Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) to Rep. Ryan Winkler’s (D-Golden Valley) amendment would have required the legislative auditor to also investigate and report the percentage of union dues and fair share fees deducted.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 74 Yea – 55 Nay (*House journal pgs. 3282-84; 4/24/15*)



House vote # 13

SF 888 (*Sen. Tom Saxhaug, D-Grand Rapids/Rep. Sarah Anderson, S-Plymouth*) – This amendment offered by Rep. Ryan Winkler (D-Golden Valley) would have required all political funds and committees to report large contributions received for the purpose of advocating or defeating a political candidate.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 51 Yea – 78 Nay (*House journal pgs. 3287-88; 4/24/15*)

House vote # 14

HF 844 (*Rep. Jenifer Loon, R-Eden Prairie/Sen. Chuck Wiger, D-Maplewood*) – Final passage of Omnibus K-12 Education finance and policy bill. (pre-conference committee) The bill's total investment of only \$400 million fell drastically short of equitable and sustainable funding for education. In 2013, with a projected budget deficit of over \$600 million, the spending increase above the base was \$606 million. With a \$1.9 billion surplus, and more than \$1 billion left on the bottom line for future tax cuts, there should have been a much greater investment in education. The bill was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 69 Yea – 61 Nay (*House journal pg. 3339; 4/25/15*)

House vote # 15

SF 1458 (*Rep. Matt Dean, R-Dellwood/Sen. Kathy Sheran, D-Mankato*) – Passage of Omnibus Health and Human Services appropriations bill. (pre-conference committee) Cuts to MinnesotaCare in the Health and Human Services budget will make it harder for some Minnesotans to afford health care. The \$65 million in reduced funding will raise premiums and triple out-of-pocket costs for working Minnesotans.

It also failed to include a proposal that would have better supported Minnesota's most struggling families in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). The bill also reduced Basic Sliding Fee's resources by \$3 million in FY 2016. These are unspent funds from FY 2015 - but, these funds are held up due to procedural issues, not due to a lack of demand. The Department of Human Services testified that this \$3 million would otherwise go towards serving more families.

The final Health and Human Services budget contained some noteworthy investments in Minnesota's children, seniors and people with disabilities or mental illnesses. But real damage will be done by the cuts to MinnesotaCare, and the state's eligibility audit could install a new barrier to affordable health care.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 72 Yea – 60 Nay (*House journal pg. 3809; 4/28/15*)

House vote # 16

HF 848 (*Rep. Greg Davids, R-Preston/Sen. Rod Skoe, D-Clearbrook*) – This amendment, offered by Rep. Ann Lenczewski (D-Bloomington) to the Omnibus Tax bill, was the DFL minority report that actually focused on middle-class breaks instead of tax cuts for corporations and wealthy individuals and wouldn't have created budget uncertainties for future legislatures.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: SUPPORT

Correct vote: Yea

House vote: 59 Yea – 73 Nay (*House journal pg. 4044; 4/29/15*)



House vote # 17

HF 848 (*Rep. Greg Davids, R-Preston/Sen. Rod Skoe, D-Clearbrook*) – House passage of the Omnibus Tax bill. This bill included \$2.4 billion in tax cuts that were not as beneficial in the long run to middle-class Minnesotans or small businesses as they were touted to be by the House Majority.

Those who would benefit the most would be the highest-value business properties and wealthy individuals. Other proposals included in the bill would have resulted in a devastating blow to Minnesota's future budgets - causing financial instability and future deficits. The proposal to eliminate the statewide property tax, for instance, would cost around \$1 billion when fully phased in, and since about 54% of the state business property tax is ultimately paid by non-Minnesotans, much of this \$1 billion proposed tax cut would flow of the state.

Another very controversial provision in the bill would have limited local government aid payments to three of the four cities of the first class — Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth.

If enacted, the Republican plan would have result in widespread policy implications for years because it would have reduced state revenue over the long term, forcing future Legislatures to cut government or find new revenue, especially if and when a recession hits and tax receipts slip. The bill was ultimately laid on the table and no further action was taken on the bill this session.

Minnesota AFL-CIO Position: OPPOSE

Correct vote: Nay

House vote: 74 Yea – 58 Nay (*House journal pg. 4285; 4/29/15*)

