

From: Brenda Rudberg
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2016 11:14 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Sick Pay Proposal

Dear City Council:

Please vote against the sick pay proposal. That type of policy is best addressed at the state or even national level. Why would a new business choose to locate in St. Paul when surrounding communities such as Minneapolis and Bloomington do not interfere with employee benefits at the micro level? I am not an employer or an employee at this point in time but as a new resident of downtown St. Paul I am very concerned about the business vitality of the city and would especially like to see retailers return to the city core. They will be discouraged from doing so if this policy passes. The “open for business” initiative is encouraging but the sick/safe leave policy is diametrically opposed to that initiative.

It is wonderful that some small businesses have gone on record to support this proposal. However, they are free to implement sick pay policies on their own without need for a city-wide requirement. Perhaps they could be rewarded by the city for adopting such a policy. It is unfortunate when workers have to miss work without pay to care for family members. Could St. Paul establish a pool of certified caregivers that city residents could call on for free or low cost help in such situations? That would direct the benefits to city residents and city employers rather than punishing businesses within the city and benefiting employees commuting from Woodbury and beyond.

Please have Edward Lotterman’s column from page 1D of the Sunday, August 21, 2016 Pioneer Press read into the record before taking a vote on this issue. I wholeheartedly agree with him that if this proposal passes there will be unintended negative consequences in the long run.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rudberg

7x Tenth Street East