



State Representative
Jeff Backer

651-296-4929
rep.jeff.backer@house.mn

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES



GOP Priorities - Fight Against and Protect Minnesota From:

Gas Tax Increase

- Last Session, House Republicans passed more than \$3 billion in road and bridge funding by prioritizing existing resources.
- Minnesota's current gas tax is 28.6 cents per gallon – the national average is 28.62 cents per gallon.
- Even a 10 cent increase in the gas tax would make Minnesota's gas tax the seventh-highest in the nation.

Provider Sick Tax

- This regressive tax is imposed on most patient services, but will sunset in 2020.
- It added \$658 million to health care costs for Minnesotans in 2018.
- Minnesota has a \$1.5 billion surplus; reinstating this tax is unnecessary.
- The sick tax funds a handful of important programs, I am committed to ensuring that those programs remain funded if the tax is not reinstated.

Minnesota Care Buy In

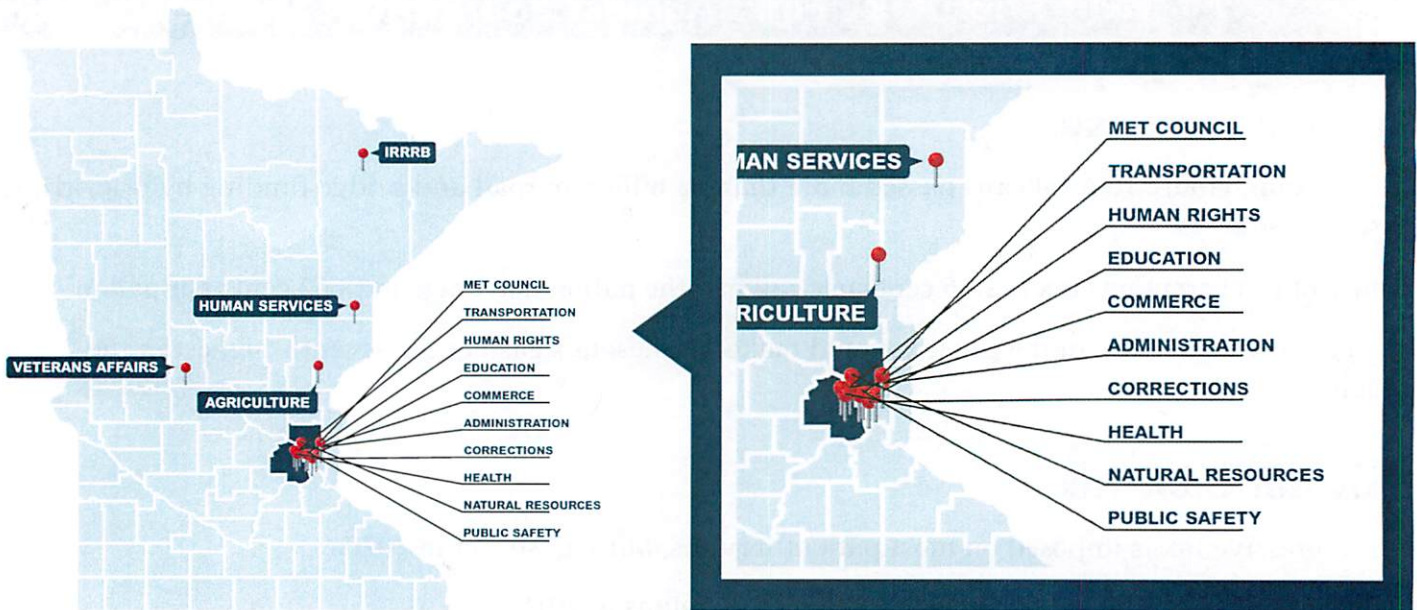
- This bill will lower reimbursement rates for health care facilities.
- Lower reimbursements threaten the viability of small town hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies, which will reduce healthcare access for our rural communities.
- Start-up costs are approximately \$113 million, with no guarantee that ongoing costs will be covered by premiums.

HF5

- HF 5 creates a massive state government bureaucracy to oversee an expansive, state-administered mandate for a paid leave program.
- A new tax on employers, employees, and independent contractors will fund this program.
- The program requires wage replacement benefits for 12 weeks of paid "family" and parental leave and 12 weeks of paid medical leave.
- This massive, one size fits all mandate will be extremely burdensome for "main street" businesses and will likely result in reduced staff, job opportunities, hours and existing benefits, which will be especially hard on middle class Minnesotans and their families.

Gov. Walz's One MN Plan

- Governor Walz campaigned on the idea of “One Minnesota” and bridging divides, including between rural and metro communities.
- The governor has been appointing commissioners, the extremely influential heads of state agencies, from the areas indicated on the map.



GOP Priorities – Support and Fight For:

Line 3

- The PUC voted unanimously to grant the certificate of need for the Enbridge Line 3 replacement project.
- Lawsuits have been filed to stop Line 3; they are pending.
- Construction could begin as early as this year if no unnecessary roadblocks delay the project.

Pro-Life

- Other states have recently passed or are considering legislation to allow third trimester abortion.
- I will oppose any legislation that threatens the lives of unborn children in MN and will continue to stand for life – from the unborn to our aging loved ones.

2nd Amendment

- Numerous bills that would weaken the 2nd Amendment in Minnesota have been introduced.
- Two of those bills are included in the DFL's top ten priority bills; we will see a major attack on our constitutionally protected rights this year.
- I will oppose any effort to restrict the rights of law-abiding gun owners.