

CHAMBER CONNECTION

317 West Main Street
Marshall, MN 56258
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www.marshallmn.org



Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce Connection to Local Business, Public Policy, Economic Development and Community Events



Brad Gruhot
Marshall Chamber President

At an alarming rate, legislation at the Capitol is cruising through both the House and the Senate. One of the bills that Chambers of Commerce statewide that has our attention is Minnesota House File 2 and Senate File 2 which is the Mandatory Paid Leave Program.

Under the current legislative proposals, ALL employers regardless of employee size and regardless if they are of non-profit status, would be required to allow for up to 24 weeks of paid time off per year. The breakdown of that would be 12 weeks of paid medical leave and 12 weeks of paid family leave. This legislation drastically exceeds most benefit packages and provides an incentive for fraudulent claims. If this gets signed into law, businesses have to comply unless they have a package that resembles the new law where they can opt out for \$100.

Businesses are working hard at offering incentives for their employees including offering their own leave programs. For the most part, I don't think businesses have an issue with leave programs but they don't want another mandate put on them. In addition, payroll taxes will go up to pay for this program plus another form of a government agency to oversee the program.

Put yourself in the shoes of a small business owner who risks everything they own to try and realize the American dream by borrowing their life savings to open a shop. Under this bill, their

entire workforce of two, three or four people on Main Street could all walk out the door with no or little notice and then be paid to not work for months and months. Any questions from the employer and it's a fine of \$10,000 or more. This undoubtedly will be abused.

Two weeks ago today, I went to the State Capitol along with other Chamber Executives statewide to advocate against this. Sadly, during committee meetings, no amendments are even being listened to. In fact, there wasn't even a fiscal note attached to the legislation so as of our visit on February 2nd, there wasn't even a cost noted for the program.

This legislation is now in the Senate. Senator Gary Dahms, who represents this area, is against this legislation. It's not too late for you to make a call or send an email to Senate leadership. Unfortunately, many email addresses aren't accessible but there is a website that you can type into your browser: www.senate.mn/members?id=leadership.



Pictured from left to right: Brad Gruhot (Marshall), Senator Gary Dahms, Anne Johnson (Redwood Falls), and Sarah Warmka (New Ulm)



Save the Date!
March 8th, 2023
11:45AM-1:00PM

Business & community members hear from Mayor Bob Byrnes & City Administrator Sharon Hanson about the highlights & the areas of improvement from 2022 & a look at what the future holds for 2023.

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Extension.UMN.edu
507-337-2800



Bluepeak
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MyBluePeak.com
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CHAMBER HAPPENINGS



SMSU Basketball Coach Brad Bigler spoke at our Young Professionals event in January!



Ralco Corporate Headquarters hosted Business After Hours at their new office building.



At our January Lunch & Learn, Google themselves went over the fundamentals of a Google listing!



Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach provided a congressional update at this Chamber event!



Dr. Kris Cleveland discussed the 8 dimensions of wellness at our Women's Connect in February.

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

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- Summit Carbon Solutions

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