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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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Michelle Benson

Minnesota

State Senator, SD-031 (R)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

MN Legislative Scorecard 2021-2022

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote

Vote

1. Serves as the \$21.2 billion omnibus PreK-12 public education bill, which allocates \$554.2 million in new spending, incorporates provisions from the Increase Teachers of Color Act, and prohibits "lunch shaming."



Estimated cost per household: **-\$9,602.00/year.**

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HF2 · 06/30/2021

2. Provides for the use of federal COVID-19 funds for rental and housing assistance in Minnesota.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HF4 · 06/28/2021

3. Appropriates \$18.8 billion to extend Medicaid coverage, raise welfare payouts for low-income families, and assist with child care and student loan forgiveness.



Estimated cost per household: **-\$8,515.00/year.**

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HF33 · 06/26/2021

4. Aims to reduce statewide energy consumption, specifically by requiring utility "load management" and "fuel switching."



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **No** · HF164 · 05/17/2021

5. Would have ended the COVID-19 peacetime public emergency declared by Governor Tim Walz on March 13, 2021, under Executive Order 20-1 and extended under subsequent executive orders.



Pro-Freedom: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · SC5 · 03/18/2021

6. Allows Minnesota law enforcement agencies to enforce orders for protection issued in Canada without a requirement that such orders be filed with a court in the United States.



Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SF395 · 03/08/2021

Scorecard Votes: 33%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Omnibus Public Education Bill

HF2 serves as the omnibus PreK-12 public education bill. It encompasses a \$21.2 billion budget, which allocates \$554.2 million in new spending, the largest per-pupil formula amount in over a decade. It also incorporates provisions from the Increase Teachers of Color Act and prohibits “lunch shaming” for students with unpaid school meals debt.

Education is the responsibility of--and a fundamental right of choice retained by--a child's parents or legal guardians, not the government. Forcing American citizens to furnish ever-increasing sums of taxpayer money for a compulsory, government-run, and failed school system violates their individual liberty protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

2. Federal COVID-19 Funds for Housing Subsidies

HF4 provides for the use of federal COVID-19 funds for rental and housing assistance. It prohibits the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget (MMB) from using any money received by the state from the Homeowner Assistance Fund under the American Rescue Plan to reimburse the federal coronavirus relief fund for money allocated to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA).

This bill permits the spending of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on housing subsidies through unfair, unconstitutional federal programs. Such “affordable housing” initiatives are, in fact, forms of wealth redistribution that violate both equal protection of the laws and the property rights of Americans.

3. Expanding Government 'Entitlement' Programs

HF33 appropriates \$18.8 billion in health and human services spending for FY 2022-23, resulting in extended Medicaid coverage, hiked payouts under the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), spending for child care and student loan forgiveness, and “anti-racism” training for health care providers.

Neither health care nor social welfare is the object of legitimate government at any level. Increasing government dependency not only causes more debt and poverty in the United States, but continues the irresponsible and unconstitutional use of taxpayer money by disparaging the American people of their right to the income they have earned.

4. Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act

HF164, the Energy Conservation and Optimization (ECO) Act, which updates Minnesota's Conservation Improvement Program (CIP), aims to reduce statewide energy consumption, specifically by requiring utility “load management,” “fuel switching,” and spending programs for low-income customers.

This bill implements crony, government-imposed mandates in the name of “climate change” that will further infringe on the property rights of Minnesotans by recovering higher consumer energy costs from ratepayers and stifling free market innovation.

5. Terminating the COVID-19 State of Emergency

SC5 would have ended the COVID-19 peacetime public emergency declared by Governor Tim Walz on March 13, 2021, under Executive Order 20-1 and extended under subsequent executive orders.

The exercise of executive emergency powers ought to be strictly time-limited, not indefinite, and the abuse thereof checked against by periodic legislative oversight. Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution guarantees each state a republican form of government, which requires a limitation and separation of powers.

6. Enforcement of Canadian Orders for Protection

SF395, the Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Orders for Protection Act, allows Minnesota law enforcement agencies to enforce orders for protection issued in Canada without a requirement that such orders be filed with a court in the United States.

All law enforcement and judicial officers in each state are bound by oath to support the U.S. Constitution, which provides a 5th Amendment guarantee that “no person” shall be deprived of liberty “without due process of law” and a 14th Amendment prohibition that “no state shall make or enforce any law” abridging the “privileges or immunities” of American citizens. Article IV, Section 1, of the U.S. Constitution confers recognition to only the “public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State,” not judgements of foreign nations. Protective orders must satisfy the requirement that U.S. courts apply the “supreme law of the land” to be domestically valid or enforceable.