



380 Jackson St. Ste. 780
St. Paul, MN 55101

651-293-1283
NFIB.com/MN
Twitter: @NFIB_MN

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mike Hickey, State Director, 651-235-7401,
mike.hickey@nfib.org

or Tony Malandra, Senior Media Manager, 415-640-5156,
anthony.malandra@nfib.org

State Senator Jerry Relph Earns Guardian of Small Business Award

St. Cloud lawmaker especially helpful on four pro-Main Street votes

ST. PAUL, Minn., January 8, 2019—NFIB Minnesota today announced the presentation of its Guardian of Small Business award to state Senator Jerry Relph (St. Cloud).

With 10,000 members statewide, NFIB is Minnesota's largest small-business group in terms of entities. NFIB gives out its Guardian of Small Business award at both the federal and state level to recognize lawmakers who have been supportive of small business on critical issues. Relph's award was based on votes he took during the 2017-2018 sessions of the Minnesota Legislature. He made many votes beneficial to small business including:

- Voted for a significant small-business property tax reduction that was signed into law which reduced taxes for the smallest businesses by 20 percent to 30 percent! The average business received a \$700 to \$900 reduction for taxes payable in 2018.
- Voted for a significant \$1 million increase in the estate tax exemption that was also signed into law, which raised it from \$2 million to \$3 million per person.
- Supported a desperately needed 25 percent reduction in health insurance premiums in 2017 for those in the individual market that was also signed into law, and which made other critical insurance reforms to make the Minnesota market more competitive.
- Supported critical legislation that preempts local units of government from enacting minimum wages higher than the state's, and from imposing other new mandates on local employers.

"Senator Relph is a real friend of small business, and we are happy to announce that he has earned the NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award," said Mike Hickey, NFIB Minnesota state director.

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For more than 75 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com.