



# children's defense fund minnesota

Dear Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee:

We write to you today with strong support for the provisions in HF 4579 that improve economic stability for our state's most under-resourced children.

At CDF-MN we are working to create a fair Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) that recognizes the majority of program recipients (7 in 10 or 56,000) are children and the majority of them have parents in the paid labor force. **We appreciate the inclusion of MFIP changes that (1) reduce cliff effects and inconsistencies that make it challenging for families to achieve economic stability and (2) help families build a solid economic base from which they and their children can launch.** These include:

- **6-month reporting, budgeting & simplification** (Article 9, sections 1-3, 5, 11-13, 16-23, 25-27, 30-39). These changes will give parents more predictability in budgeting their monthly earnings from work and eliminate unnecessary paperwork requirements.
- **Aligning RSDI and SSI income disregards** (Article 9, section 28). This provision aligns how the State calculates income in MFIP and CCAP for parents with disabilities, allowing more of these parents and children to continue accessing full MFIP cash assistance benefits.

We also appreciate the **increase in the SNAP gross income limit to 200% of the federal poverty guideline** (Article 9, section 4). This change allows more Minnesotans to access federal food benefits and addresses food insecurity statewide. In December, the majority of households with children were using their federal child tax credit to purchase food. Without this support, it is critical for the state to step in with a variety of approaches to ensure no child goes to bed hungry and fewer families have to make impossible choices between food and rent or other basic needs.

As the evidence from the national Academy of Science and others continues to grow about the difference a small increase in income can have on the lifetime trajectory of a child, **we know these provisions included in HF 4579 are critical to the future of our children and our state. Thank you for prioritizing them.**

Debra Fitzpatrick  
Policy and Research Director