



children's defense fund minnesota

Dear Members of the Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee:

We write to you today with strong support for the provision in SF 4410 that increases the earned income disregard within the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) to 60%.

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. **The 60% earned income disregard is consistent with our efforts to reduce cliff effects and inconsistencies that make it challenging for families to achieve economic stability for themselves and their children.**

As the process continues, we hope that you will consider additional efforts to improve both MFIP and Child Care Assistance (CCAP) that help families build a solid economic base from which they and their children can launch. These include:

- Alignment between MFIP, SNAP and housing program requirements to improve family budgeting and income stability, as well as county administration (considered as part of the Governor's budget bill)
- Permanent reprioritization of the CCAP basic sliding fee waitlist to ensure more working families have the childcare support needed to participate in the paid labor force (SF 3379)
- Consistency in federal SSDI and RSSDI disability benefits income within MFIP cash assistance to end penalties for more significant workforce participation (SF 3646)

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, counterproductive and inconsistent MFIP program requirements that decrease support for working parents ultimately harm children and the future of our state. **We appreciate your ongoing efforts to create an effective, efficient MFIP program that supports our most under-resourced children and look forward to continuing the conversation as the legislative session proceeds.**

Debra Fitzpatrick
Policy and Research Director