



March 22, 2023

The Honorable Melissa H. Wiklund  
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
2107 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Paul J. Utke  
Ranking Minority Member, Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
2403 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Legal Aid Letter of Support for SF 2966**

Dear Chair Wiklund, Ranking Minority Member Utke, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written public testimony in support of several provisions of the Governor's Health and Human Services bill, SF 2966.

LSAP and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. MDLC serves as the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organization for Minnesota, and, along with every other state and territory, is the largest network of legally based advocacy services for people with disabilities in the United States. MDLC provides free legal services to children and adults with disabilities. LSAP is the advocacy arm of Legal Aid and has provided legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid's clients and all low-income Minnesotans since 1977. Legal Aid is grateful to the Governor for the following provisions:

**Child Care (Article 1)**

- Expansion of the definitions of applicant, child care, and family to allow foster families, relative caregivers, and others to access CCAP programs necessary to work.
- Permanently reprioritizing basic sliding fee (BSF) childcare to serve more families.
- Increasing the subsidy levels to give Minnesota families access to more providers.

#### **Child Safety and Permanency (Article 2)**

Establishment of the Independent Living Skills for Foster Youth Program, the Support Beyond 21 Grant Program, the Minor Connect Grant Program, and the Family First Prevention and Early Intervention Allocation Program.

#### **Economic Assistance (Article 4)**

- 6-month budgeting periods and prospective budgeting for MFIP.
- Improved SNAP outreach investments.

#### **Addressing Deep Poverty (Article 5)**

- Aligning General Assistance with the MFIP transitional standard for single adults.
- Reforms to county drug testing and sanctions for people with a history of addiction.
- More time for a person to complete an interim assistance agreement for General Assistance.
- More flexibility for Minnesotans who have lived-experience engagement income.

#### **Health Care (Article 8)**

- Continuous eligibility for children.
- Expansion of adult dental services.
- Reducing cost sharing and deductibles for persons on Medical Assistance (MA).
- Providing coverage for undocumented children.
- Expanding health coverage through the MNCare Public Option.
- Increasing payments for health care navigators.

Sincerely,



Jessica Webster  
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Legal Services Advocacy Project



Ellen Smart  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project

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