



Greater Twin Cities
United Way
gtcuw.org

March 30, 2023

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

At Greater Twin Cities United Way, our mission is to unite changemakers, advocate for social good and develop solutions to address the challenges no one can solve alone. Together with our partners, we touched over 500,000 lives across the nine-county metro area last year. As an organization that partners with over 100 nonprofits and coalitions across the Twin Cities region and state, we know that a holistic approach to Household Stability, Educational Success and Economic Opportunity is key to providing the foundation for individuals and families from low-wealth households to move toward prosperity. **Greater Twin Cities United Way writes in support of proposals supporting thriving children, families, and communities in SF 2995:**

- Addressing the benefits cliff through **continuous Medical Assistance eligibility for enrollees under 21** and **expanding budgeting periods to six months for the Minnesota Family Investment Program.**
- Increasing access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, which leads to multi-generational benefits for individuals and families, **by increasing investments in the Homeless Youth Act, allowing foster youth to retain Survivor Benefits, and modifying countable income of Housing Support recipients.**
- Investing in a strong early childhood care and education sector, which is critical to optimal brain development, by **strengthening the Child Care Assistance Program, supporting family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) providers, creating a Department of Children, Youth and Families, and funding Community Solutions Grants.**
- Supporting Minnesotans through times of crisis by **consistently funding 988.**

We know investments that improve housing stability, equitable access to affordable housing, early care, and pathways to economic success result in lasting impacts and improved long-term outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. Thank you for including these provisions in SF 2995.

Sincerely,

Susan Carter
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