



March 28, 2023

The Honorable Dave Pinto
Chair, Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
503 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Brian Daniels
Republican Lead, Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
231 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Legal Aid Letter of Support for HF 238

Dear Chair Pinto, Lead Daniels, 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 committee's omnibus budget bill, HF 238. We are grateful for the committee's commitment to addressing the needs of children and families experiencing poverty and homelessness.

LSAP and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. 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.

Though Legal Aid supports many provisions in HF 238, we are particularly grateful for the below provisions that we have advocated for several years:

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 5)

- 6-month reporting and prospective budgeting for MFIP, with the inclusion of sanction and DWP reforms.
- MFIP eligibility for parents with U-Visas and T-Visas who have been victims of crimes and trafficking.
- The modification of unearned income in MFIP that allows for aligning SSI and RSDI disregards for parents with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jessica L. Webster
Staff Attorney



Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney

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