



children's defense fund minnesota

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the House Health Policy and Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our strong support for several elements of the House Health Omnibus bill (HF 2930).

We won't solve health disparities in Minnesota unless we unleash the power of BIPOC communities and invest in their solutions. That's why **we applaud Section 125 of HF 2930 that permanently establishes and funds the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program.**

Currently, twenty-two innovative community-generated solutions are being put to work tackling persistent unequal child outcomes across the state with funding from Community Solutions. The funding in HF 2930 will help us harness additional assets and knowledge within communities. To the extent additional funding is available, it would only increase the program's ability to deliver on its promise of a healthy future for every Minnesota child.

Through our efforts to connect families with benefits, we see firsthand the importance of affordable healthcare access for family economic stability and security. For this reason, **we are excited to see the MNCare Buy-in as well as MNCare access for undocumented families included in HF2930.** We hope as the process continues, the option for a small business buy-in is added to the bill. Many BIPOC owned small businesses support families and access to reasonably priced health insurance is a barrier to their success.

Finally, the pandemic taught us much about how to improve delivery of support to children and families. **With nearly half of Minnesota's children being supported by MA, we are glad to see the state building on those lessons to offer continuous MA eligibility for children to age six.** This reduction in the "time-tax" spent on red tape for families with young children, as well as the added stability within health coverage, are critical components of HF 2930 and its promise to improve the health of children, families and communities.

While we call out these three provisions in particular, we acknowledge that there are many other important provisions for children and families within HF 2930 and **thank you for your commitment to making Minnesota the best state in the country to be a child.**

Sincerely,

Debra Fitzpatrick
Director of Policy and Research

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