

The MN Family Resiliency Partnership

Formerly Known as the MN Displaced Homemaker Program

Dear Chairs Latz and Novotny and Public Safety and Judiciary Conference Committee Members:

I am contacting you to express my support for Senator Latz's provision regarding a funding adjustment for the statewide Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership.

Included in the Senate bill is a modest increase in the portion of dissolution fees allocated to a special revenue fund for the statewide Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership (MFRP) which will stabilize our funding. **There has not been an adjustment to the program's funding level in over 22 years!** These funds will allow us to continue to provide wrap around services and long-term solutions that help break down the barriers that keep our participants and their children trapped in poverty after a major life transition like divorce, death, abandonment, or disability of a partner.

MFRP is the **only** program in the state specifically designed to provide pre-employment and family stabilization services to displaced homemakers. The services are provided by a network of six regional programs serving the state. Last year 73% of program participants were survivors of domestic violence. The support and skills offered by MFRP help these participants move toward economic self-sufficiency and are often the way to escape unsafe relationships.

Over 96% of participants successfully complete the program by attaining the goals they set at intake, which include completing an individualized self-sufficiency plan which demonstrates stability, pursuing a degree or certificate program, and/or becoming employed.

We appreciate Senator Latz's support and inclusion in the Senate bill. We request that the Committee adopt this provision.

Respectfully,

Jean M. Keenan

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On Behalf of the Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership

