



May 7, 2021

Via E-Mail Delivery

Sen. Michelle Benson, Chair  
Health & Human Services Finance & Policy  
Minnesota Senate  
3109 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Tina Liebling, Chair  
Health Finance & Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Jim Abeler, Chair  
Human Services Reform Finance & Policy  
Minnesota Senate  
3215 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Jennifer Schultz, Chair  
Human Services Finance & Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
473 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Benson, Abeler, Liebling and Schultz:

The coalition of undersigned organizations strongly support certain child support provisions included in SF2360 in Article 12 and recommend these changes be included in the final Health & Human Services Omnibus bill.

The proposed child support legislation included in SF 2360 has bipartisan support from the House of Representatives and Senate. The language in Article 12 was introduced as HF 980/SF 1519, authored by Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn and Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer, and co-authored by Rep. Peggy Scott and Sen. Melissa Wiklund.

Several pieces of the child support legislative changes included in SF 2360 were part of the Child Support Guidelines Task Force established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2016. The Task Force first met in September 2016 and worked on recommendations for more than two years. The final report was issued in October 2019.

The Task Force reviewed research and data on child support, engaged experts, and conducted outreach with partner groups and the public. The Task Force spent substantial time and effort reviewing how to revise the child support basic support table. This legislation reflects the work of the Task Force as it relates to updating the basic support table.

The child support guidelines were last updated in 2007 and these changes are well overdue. Over time, the child support guidelines table has become outdated and has created inequities, particularly for low-income families. We have included a background document prepared by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office which provides an overview of changes we are seeking from the Conference Committee and the legislature.

In addition, the legislation included in Article 12 includes a provision to remove interest arrears on child support payments. This provision is not retroactive. The legislation in Article 12 also makes changes to child care expenses and gives counties greater flexibility in reporting late payments to credit reporting bureaus. Unfortunately, the current system has resulted in individuals having their credit score negatively impacted when they are in fact making regular child support payments. This flexibility will protect individuals who are making regular child support payments and should not have a negative report submitted to credit agencies.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney  
Ramsey County Attorney's Office

Deb Sjostrom, President  
Matt Freeman, Executive Director  
Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA)

Lisa Kontz  
Minnesota Family Support & Recovery Council (MFSRC)

Victoria Taylor  
Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA)  
Family Law Section

Ron Elwood and Maren Hulden  
Legal Aid Advocacy Project

c: Senator Paul Utke  
Senator Mark Koran  
Senator John Hoffman  
Representative Aisha Gomez  
Representative Dave Pinto  
Representative Joe Schomacker