



Greater Twin Cities
United Way
gtcuw.org

March 27, 2023

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the House Children and Families Finance & Policy 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 HF 238:**

- Addressing the benefits cliff by **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 and allowing foster youth to retain survivor benefits.**
- Investing in a strong early childhood care and education sector, which is critical to optimal brain development, by funding **early learning scholarships and childcare stabilization grants**, strengthening the **Child Care Assistance Program**, supporting **family, friend, and neighbor** providers, and **creating a Department of Children, Youth and Families.**

We know investments that improve housing stability, equitable access to affordable 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 HF 238.

Sincerely,

Susan Carter
Director, Advocacy & External Engagement
Greater Twin Cities United Way

Tina Rucci
Advocacy Manager
Greater Twin Cities United Way