



March 28, 2023

The Honorable Tina Liebling
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Joe Schomacker
Lead, Health Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
209 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Legal Aid Letter of Support for HF 2930 – Omnibus Bill

Dear Chair Liebling, Lead Schomacker, 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 Health and Human Services bill, HF 2930. LSAP and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. MDLC serves as the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organization for Minnesota, and, along with every other state and territory, is the largest network of legally based advocacy services for people with disabilities in the United States. 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.

Legal Aid is grateful for many of the provisions that address the needs of low-income Minnesotans. We support:

Addressing Deep Poverty

- The proposed increase to General Assistance benefits.
- The reforms to drug testing and related sanctions for Minnesotans struggling with addiction.
- The increased amount of time given to people completing an interim assistance agreement.

Health Care

- Providing 72-month continuous MA eligibility for children under 6, 12-month continuous eligibility to children 6 to 19.
- Providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants through MNCare.
- Returning comprehensive dental benefits to MA coverage of adult oral health.
- Eliminating cost sharing and deductibles for persons on MA.
- Expanding MA benefits to cover recuperative care of persons experiencing homelessness.
- Strengthening health care access by changing MA rates for non-emergency medical transportation.
- Expanding health coverage to uninsured and underinsured Minnesotans and easing the health coverage burden on Minnesotans through the MNCare Public Option.

As the legislative process progresses, we hope that you will consider additional funding for navigator organizations that will be essential partners with the Department of Human Services, Counties and MNSure in dealing with the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency.

Thank you for all that you do for low-income Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Webster", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica L. Webster
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Smart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project