

Yingya Vang

From: seeber@winternet.com
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:10 AM
To: Yingya Vang
Subject: RE: request to testify tomorrow on the child support bill

Good morning, please accept my submission below, testimony against the child support bill. Thank you.

2020-03-04

Testimony against Child support bill

Too little too late. Bill is not covering 99% of what needs to be fixed.

First and foremost, MNDHS Child Support Enforcement does not represent children and is harming children's relationships with parents.

A three year long, nearly one million dollar taxpayer funded study, still in progress, conducted by the Minneapolis Health Department finds government systems profoundly anti-father. The study's chief author, Mageen Caines, says "Child support is the number one barrier to father involvement."

DHS Child Support IV-D Agency has known since 2006 that they were setting child support orders too high. How many incarcerations, drivers license suspensions, professional license suspensions, passport revocations, tax intercepts, asset seizures, adverse credit reports, FIDMs, etc. were executed in error over that more than 15 year period? How does DHS plan to account for and return excess money collected over that time period. They may be looking at one of the largest class action lawsuits against government in Minnesota history. Another massive DHS scandal.

Why is DHS asking for money to fix a problem they created that should be fixed with their own money? They should not be bailed out and rewarded for their own failure.

Since Washington DC pays Minnesota 66% of child support collection costs is DHS getting federal matching funds on top of the \$125,000 state money they are now asking for in this bill? Has this been discussed or disclosed? Why not?

Is this money to be deposited in a DHS controlled bank account? If so, why is Ramsey County promoting and lobbying for this bill... why not DHS? Has this been questioned or discussed?

In testimony before the MN House, Ramsey County spoke about the child support task force accomplishments, one aspect specifically mentioned was receiving public testimony. I attended 29 of the 31 meetings. The facilitators of the task force imposed drastic, needless restrictions to limit public testimony and made very little effort to publicize the public meetings to those directly affected. To my knowledge, DHS has not answered or acted upon one single public concern brought before them

during the public comments.

Proposed guidelines/table rely upon USDA estimates, wrongly called data, which are not data at all. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines data as "factual information such as measurements...". USDA so called "data" consists only of estimates. Estimates are not measurements and thus not factual. Estimated are guesses, not data. These USDA guesstimates were made based on what parents guess they spend. As such the entire table is not valid and cannot be legally enforced as the federal requirement mandates guidelines rely on cost data. Even if the USDA guesses were considered data, there are numerous other problems with the tables. One example is that the tables, at some combinations, require a parent to pay more than the USDA estimates.

Bill should contain NO increases. The bill would be an increase for those making \$15 an hour. In previous testimony to the house there was an acknowledgement of this but no explanation. A demand a child support increase during an international pandemic should be found unacceptable by any other than Scrooge McDuck.

Table is based upon gross income instead of net income. This does not take into account expenses or deductions and thus is not fair or rational. Even the IRS does not calculate liabilities on gross income. The reason given by a member of the task force, Jodi Metcalf, child support magistrate supervisor for the whole state was, we can't trust someone's tax returns because they might be hiding income. Ms Metcalf also stated they use gross income because its not efficient for them to figure out whats deductions should be used. The result should not be determined based on what is easier for the child support agency employees. It should be based on following the intent of the federal program (just keeping people off welfare), and what is accurate and realistic mail at information.

The lowered award amounts are not decreased enough.

In addition I believe the MNDHS child support agency is violating due process of law with administrative suspensions of drivers license.

Thank you.

On Tuesday 03/02/2021 at 4:17 pm, Yingya Vang wrote:

Hi Mike,

HF980 and HF1436 was posted last week and the deadline for testimony ended 10:30am today. The new deadline is for the three new bills added, HF601, HF1559, HF1305.

Written testimony is encouraged and is accepted up to 24 hours after committee ends if you choose to.

Regards,

Yingya Vang
Committee Administrator
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

House DFL Caucus
385 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298
Yingya.Vang@house.mn; 651-296-1913 Office

-----Original Message-----

From: seeber@winternet.com <seeber@winternet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Yingya Vang <Yingya.Vang@house.mn>
Subject: request to testify tomorrow on the child support bill

Hi Yingya, Mike Seeber here with a request to testify tomorrow on the child support bill.
Thank you.