



April 28, 2023

Dear Members of the House and Senate Health and Human Services Conference Committee on SF2995/HF238-HF2930:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) appreciates the opportunity to support several provisions being considered by the Health and Human Services Conference Committee.

We support the following provisions in the House:

Economic Assistance

- **Convert DWP to MFIP.** The Diversionary Work Program in MFIP is an administratively burdensome program for counties and families and offers little to no benefit. We see no measurable difference in employment outcomes or income stability for parents who exit the Diversionary Work Program versus those who exit the Minnesota Family Investment Program (HF238 Article 5).

Health

- **MinnesotaCare Immigrant Inclusion,** to allow immigrants without status to be eligible for MinnesotaCare at the same income levels as other Minnesotans. Currently these Minnesotans are only eligible for very limited emergency coverage through EMA, and limited primary care through FQHCs or charity care, which is not available statewide. We strongly support the House position to include adults as well as children. (UESF2995-2 Article 2, Section 23)

Department of Human Services Operations Policy

- **On Prone Restraint** we strongly support the prohibition of prone restraints (HF2930 Article 9, Section 13).

We support the following provisions in the Senate:

Economic Assistance

- For the **SSI and RSDI alignment of income** for MFIP and child care programs, we strongly prefer the Senate's implementation date of August 1, 2023 (SF2995-3 Article 10, Section 47).

Health

- **Increasing the navigator incentive payments** from \$70 to \$100 (SF2995-3 Article 16, Section 12).

We support the below provisions that match and appear in both House and Senate bills:

Economic Assistance

- The increase to **General Assistance** (SF2995-3 Article 10, section 2)
- The **repeal of mandatory drug testing** and its associated sanctions for people struggling with addiction (SF2995-3 Article 10, section 3)
- Giving people more time to complete an interim assistance agreement (SF2995-3 Article 10, section 5)
- **6-month reporting and prospective budgeting for MFIP** (multiple sections in Article 10)

- **MFIP eligibility for parents with U-Visas and T-Visas** who have been victims of crimes and trafficking (SF2995-3 Article 10, section 23).
- **An annual COLA to the MFIP Housing Allowance Grant** (SF2995-3 Article 10, section 29)
- **MFIP Sanction reforms.** While we are disappointed that these reforms cannot be implemented until 2026, we are grateful for their inclusion (SF2995-3 Article 10, section 36)
- The modification of unearned income for MFIP and child care that allows for **aligning SSI and RSDI disregards** for parents with disabilities (SF2995-3 Article 10, section 47)

Health

- **Continuous Medical Assistance Eligibility for Children.** Continuous eligibility for children for up to 72 months under six years of age, and 12 months up to age 21. (SF2995-3 Article 16, Section 4; UESF2995-2 Article 2, Section 12)
- **The MinnesotaCare Public Option** to allow Minnesotans with incomes over 200% FPL to buy-in to MinnesotaCare (in SF2995-3 Article 16; UESF2995-2 Article 2)
- **Expansion of MA Dental Services for Adults** (SF2995-3 Article 1, Section 9; UESF2995-2 Article 1, Section 12)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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