



# children's defense fund minnesota

Dear Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee:

We write to you today with strong support for HF 3844, a bill that would ensure children of parents with disabilities that have more experience in the paid labor sector receive the same levels of support regardless of their parent's federal disability program status.

At CDF-MN we are working to create a fair Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) that recognizes the majority of program recipients (7 in 10 or 56,000) are children and the majority of them have parents in the paid labor force. **HF 3844 is consistent with our efforts to reduce cliff effects and inconsistencies that make it challenging for families to achieve economic stability and ultimately mobility for themselves and their children.** In this case, current MFIP policy treats parents with disabilities that have more time in the paid labor force differently than others, creating a disincentive to work more hours and punishing parents with disabilities who are striving to build a work history.

While federal SSI-disability benefits are fully excluded as income for MFIP benefit calculations, federal RSDI-disability benefits are deducted dollar for dollar significantly reducing MFIP cash assistance. This means parents with disabilities who have tried to work, but have struggled, **and their children will receive less or no MFIP assistance** if they are also accessing federal RSDI benefits.

As the evidence from the national Academy of Science and others continues to grow about the difference a small increase in income can have on the lifetime trajectory of a child, unfair MFIP program requirements that decrease support for working parents with disabilities ultimately harms children and the future of our state. **We hope you will join us in supporting HF 3844 and correcting this inconsistency for their sake and ours.**

Debra Fitzpatrick  
Policy and Research Director