



1220 Zane Avenue North  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
763.529.1350  
prismmpls.org

April 18, 2023

Chair Aisha Gomez  
Minnesota House Taxes Committee  
453 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the House Taxes Committee:

PRISM is writing in support of a Minnesota Child Tax Credit and we appreciate seeing the inclusion of a Child Tax Credit in the House Omnibus bill.

PRISM provides emergency food, rental assistance, and clothing to basic-wage earning individuals and families. The number of people accessing services rises every year with the exception of 2021. In 2021 the Child Tax Credit was in place as a response to Covid and we saw a plateau in food shelf visits for the first time ever. Visits immediately went back up in January of 2022 when this benefit expired. This tells me the Child Tax Credit had a significant and sustaining positive impact on families in need.

\$1,000 per child for the families we serve would be an absolute game-changer. Stability of the most necessary needs allows for families to not just survive, but nurture, learn, grown, and care for each other. Local families can't be in crisis mode and be healthy at the same time. Families are in crisis currently.

A Child Tax Credit would also increase our ability at PRISM to be the most helpful. In 2019 we saw 60 households a day in the foodshelf. In 2023 we see 160 households a day in the foodshelf. It is simply not sustainable to expect nonprofits to take the place of reasonable, manageable, fundamental basic needs such as food and housing. The existence and proliferation of social service agencies reflects our public and social safety nets not working.

The Child Tax Credit would be a tremendously impactful way to immediately improve the lives of children, families, and the communities we live in. Let's choose to grow healthy, nourished children and families.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ness, MSW, LISW  
Executive Director  
763.432.4201  
mness@prismmpls.org