



Greater Twin Cities
United Way
gtcuw.org

May 11, 2022

To: Governor Tim Walz
Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan
Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller
Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman
Conference Committee Members of Agriculture, Housing, and Broadband
Conference Committee Members of Education Finance
Conference Committee Members of Health and Human Services

At Greater Twin Cities United Way, our mission is to unite changemakers, advocate for social good and develop solutions to address the challenges no one can solve alone. As an organization that partners with over 100 nonprofits and coalitions across the Twin Cities region and state, we know that a holistic approach to Household Stability, Educational Success and Economic Opportunity is key to providing the foundation for individuals and families from low-wealth households to move toward prosperity.

It is with a sense of urgency that we ask Minnesota's legislative leaders to optimize our state's long-term wellbeing through strategic investments that support thriving families and communities and reflect Greater Twin Cities United Way's policy priorities directly informed by our partners. These include:

- Addressing the benefits cliff by **expanding income reporting to a six-month period for the Minnesota Family Investment Program** and **providing 12-month continuous Medical Assistance** eligibility for children and youth under the age of 21. (HF 4706)
- Increasing access to safe, stable and affordable housing by making significant investments in **Housing Infrastructure Bonds and general obligation bonds** to preserve and rehabilitate public housing. (HF 4366)
- Investing in a strong early childhood education and care sector, which is critical to optimal brain development and parents' ability to fully participate in the workforce, by funding **early learning scholarships**, strengthening the **Children Care Assistance Program** and supporting **voluntary home visiting**. (HF 4300 and HF 4706)
- Advancing employment training, career pathways and stabilizing services that are inclusive of high-opportunity Minnesotans to fully actualize our state's workforce and support an equitable, robust economy.

Sincerely,

Acooa Ellis
Senior Vice President, Community Impact
Greater Twin Cities United Way