



2019 Legislative Agenda

Strengthen the Safety Net for Low-Income Families and Children

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) provides work support and temporary cash assistance for children and their parents – often low-wage workers between jobs. MFIP cash assistance for a family of three is a maximum of \$532 per month. It has not changed since 1986. We support an increase for these families.

Child Care

The Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is the state's largest program serving infants and toddlers. It offers financial support for child care expenses based on family income, allowing parents to work and go to school. CCAP provides coverage at all times of the day, making childcare available for parents working or attending school outside of a typical workday. We support additional funding to eliminate the current waiting list (Over 2,000 families) and raising provider reimbursement rates to address the statewide lack of affordable childcare.

Traffic Fees/Fines and Driver's License Protection

Fines and fees from traffic, parking, and minor criminal violations strip assets from low-income communities. Tacked-on fees and surcharges drive up the cost of a basic traffic ticket to well over \$100, which is a hardship for many families. Those Minnesotans unable to pay these fines can face license suspension, additional fees and job loss. A single unpaid ticket can lead to late fees, collection charges, and driver's license suspension. We support legislation stopping the practice of driver's license suspension for non-payment alone and granting courts authorizing courts to waive, reduce or substitute community service for any traffic fines.

Targeted Support Low Income Children

We know that 80% of brain development occurs between birth and age 3. We advocate for expansion of targeted programs providing health, education, social and other supports to low income families with children ages 0 - 3, allowing children to reach their potential.

Improve Tax Credits for Working Families

The Working Family Credit provides tax credits to working people with lower incomes, helping them meet basic needs and support their families. The Child and Dependent Care Credit helps families afford childcare so parents can work or go to school. We support reasonable tax policy that recognizes the needs of these families.