



CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND ACTION COUNCIL

2009–2010 Minnesota Legislative Scorecard



Children's Defense Fund Action Council 2009–2010 Scorecard

People are Minnesota's greatest asset. Children are our biggest source of future wealth. Yet, in these economically difficult times, when measuring assets and restoring wealth are at the forefront of policy debate, children are often overlooked.

Because children cannot advocate or speak for themselves, one of society's greatest responsibilities is to ensure all children's basic needs are met so they have the opportunity to thrive.

A necessary element to reaching this goal is investing in children. Wise investments in children come back to us many-fold in the form of well-prepared workers and community leaders and reduced spending for public assistance, corrections and chronic health care.

For these reasons, the Children's Defense Fund Action Council (CDF Action Council) produced this scorecard as a tool for concerned citizens to use on behalf of children in their interactions with lawmakers. The 2009–2010 scorecard marks a change from an annual to a biennial format to ensure inclusion of key votes across the entire two-year legislative cycle.

This scorecard provides information on votes from the 2009–2010 legislative session that impact the well-being of children such as access to health care coverage, access to quality early care and education, poverty reduction and juvenile justice. In addition, revenue-related bills that determine state budget limits are included.

Selecting bills for a scorecard is often difficult. Provisions relating to children are frequently included in large omnibus bills covering a wide range of issues. A vote for or against a particular bill does not always tell the full story. Therefore, be sure to talk to your legislators about their votes and why they are important to you.



CDF Action Council's primary goal is to educate the public and provide a voice for children to ensure that children are a top priority as lawmakers debate hundreds of policies each year. **The scorecard and its scores should not be interpreted as an endorsement of—or opposition to—any legislator.** CDF Action Council encourages you to use this document to let your lawmakers know what you think about their votes for Minnesota's youngest residents. While there are some positives to report in this scorecard, we have much to do on behalf of children before we can rest.

Health Coverage for 22,000 More Children

While the significant budget deficit resulted in some ups and some downs for children, the 2009 Health and Human Services budget bill includes several ups—including provisions to expand access to health care coverage for children. These provisions were key priorities for Children's Defense Fund Minnesota (CDF Minnesota). Amidst difficult cuts and minimal new investments this biennium, child advocates have this significant victory to celebrate. See more on the Cover All Kids bill on page 11.

Why These Votes Are Important

Smart investments in children are an investment in Minnesota's future. By ensuring children have a strong foundation, they are more likely to grow up healthy, thrive in school and become contributing adults.

Three key priorities for CDF Action Council to help ensure the right start for children are:

- ending childhood poverty,
- ensuring access to comprehensive health coverage and
- juvenile justice, specifically, breaking the Cradle to Prison PipelineSM.

CDF Action Council used these priorities to select the votes for this scorecard.

Ending Childhood Poverty and Stabilizing Families (Votes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Poverty is a key indicator of how we are faring on behalf of our children because it is so inextricably tied with children's basic needs. Being poor as a child makes it harder to establish a healthy foundation for future growth. Low-income families are often forced to choose among basic necessities, such as food, heat and medical attention.

We have much work to do in the area of child poverty. In 2008, about 11 percent (140,000) of Minnesota children lived in poverty, up 22% since 2000.

Several factors that are critical to children's success—and Minnesota's future success—are jeopardized by the stresses of poverty.

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT: MIND AND BODY

Early interactions are the foundation for children's brain development. Access to quality early care and education has been shown to positively impact children's brain development.

Children who live in poverty are also at greater risk of lacking health care coverage. Health care coverage is the first step to good health for children.

FUNDAMENTALS: HOUSING AND NUTRITION

A safe home allows children to learn to explore the world. Yet for children in poverty, homes are too often unsafe, exposing them to lead, mold or asbestos. Heating costs can be insurmountable for low-income families, forcing them to reduce the heat to unhealthy levels.

Adequate nutrition provides the necessary fuel for children's physical, emotional and cognitive development. Programs that provide free and reduced-priced breakfasts and lunches help children perform by reducing hunger. Proper nutrition positively impacts children's ability to pay attention, as well as their school attendance and overall behavior.

STRONG COMMUNITIES AND SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

We need to look beyond individual families to address the ills of poverty. Stable, livable communities and public commitment are essential to effect systemic change.

All children need access to neighborhoods with community resources such as parks and libraries to allow them to explore the world outside their homes. Neighborhoods with high rates of poverty do not typically have these resources and are often unsafe.

Strong public supports, such as energy assistance, food support, health care and child care, are crucial for these children. An ailing safety net due to budget cuts combined with cost and administrative barriers puts these supports out of reach for too many families.

Public commitment, including from our elected officials, can eliminate these adversities and ensure no child lives in poverty.

Access to Health Coverage (Votes 1, 2, 4)

Good health is a necessary part of a strong start for children, and health coverage is the first step to good health. Children who have health care coverage are more likely than children without health coverage to get preventive services, immunizations and necessary medical services. Insured children miss less school and perform better in school than uninsured children. Too often uninsured children do not seek medical care until an issue becomes an emergency, requiring the most expensive type of care.

Despite the importance of health coverage, more than eight million children in America and 88,000 children in Minnesota are uninsured. Ensuring all children have health coverage would be returned many-fold in future earnings, decreased health care expenditures and improved health in adulthood.

Breaking the Cradle to Prison PipelineSM (Votes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Our youth, particularly minority youth, too often find themselves on a trajectory that will lead to arrest, conviction and incarceration. Nationally, 1 in 3 African-American boys and 1 in 6 Latino boys born in 2001 are at risk of imprisonment during their lifetime.

Multiple factors fuel the pipeline, thus addressing a range of policy areas can break this pipeline, including:

- eliminating poverty,
- ensuring access to quality health care, including mental health services,
- equalizing educational opportunity beginning with access to quality early care and education programs,
- reforming the overburdened and flawed juvenile justice system and
- eradicating abuse and neglect.

House and Senate Votes

Vote 1: Health and Human Services Conference Committee Report

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HF 1362, authored by Senator Linda Berglin and Representative Thomas Huntley, is the agreement reached between the House and Senate. This legislation includes provisions that will provide health care coverage to 22,000 more children by reducing barriers to MinnesotaCare for children under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG), which is \$44,100 for a family of four. The funding source for these provisions is the Health Care Access Fund, MinnesotaCare's dedicated funding source. The legislation also creates a MinnesotaCare buy-in option for children above the eligibility limit (275% FPG) and directs the Department of Human Services to develop a plan to simplify public health care programs for children and their families by aligning standards within the MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance programs. In addition, the legislation utilizes federal stimulus dollars to reduce the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) waiting list and continue funding for three pilot projects that 1) increases access to quality care for children on CCAP; 2) increases the quality of informal child care ("Family, Friend and Neighbor" care); and 3) continues the testing and exploration of a child care quality rating system through Parent Aware.

The legislation passed the Senate 47 to 18 (*Senate Journal*, page 4940, May 11, 2009) and passed the House 80 to 51 (*House Journal*, page 5428, May 11, 2009).

Governor Pawlenty signed the bill into law but used the line item veto to strike funding for General Assistance Medical Care, eliminating health care coverage for more than 75,000 of the lowest income childless adults (some GAMC cuts were ultimately restored in the 2010 legislative session).

It is important to note that HHS spending cuts



contributed significantly to balancing the budget. As a result, this legislation reduced HHS spending by \$491 million (the GAMC line-item veto was an additional \$381 million cut), resulting in painful cuts to an already ailing safety net and services for the elderly and disabled. It is the important provisions that benefit children and their families stated above that drove CDF Action Council's decision to support the bill.

Vote 2: Tax Omnibus Conference Committee Report

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

HF 885, authored by Senator Tom Bakk and Representative Ann Lenczewski, is the agreement

between the House and Senate on tax issues. The legislation included new revenue sources to help bridge the multi-billion dollar deficit, including a new fourth income tax bracket on taxable income more than \$250,000 for a married couple. In light of significant budget cuts to key services for families and children in recent years and the importance of wise investments in children to the future of our state, CDF Action Council supported increasing revenues as part of a balanced approach to resolving the budget deficit.

The legislation passed the Senate 44 to 20 (*Senate Journal*, page 4466, May 8, 2009), the House 86 to 45 (*House Journal*, page 5053, May 8, 2009), but was vetoed by Governor Pawlenty.

House and Senate Votes



Vote 3: Early Childhood Education Policy Bill Conference Committee Report

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

SF 2505, authored by Senator Terri Bonoff and Representative Nora Slawik is the agreement between the House and Senate on changes to the state's early care and education system. The legislation clarifies the duties of the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) by requiring the ECAC to establish a task force to provide recommendations on how and if to create an Office of Early Learning for all early care and education programs. The legislation also requires the ECAC to create and implement a statewide school readiness report card and explore ways to improve screening and assessment of young children, which will help identify children who will benefit from early intervention services. The legislation also designates existing federal quality improvement dollars to advance a statewide child care quality rating and improvement system that will set standards across programs and provide parents with information on the quality of child care programs. Finally, the legislation will help young parents stay in school by changing the CCAP requirement for parents under 21 who are in approved schooling from

reauthorizing every six months to allowing them to remain authorized for the full school year.

The legislation passed the Senate 57 to 10 (*Senate Journal*, page 10893, May 10, 2010), the House 103 to 30 (*House Journal*, page 12164, May 11, 2010) and was signed into law by Governor Pawlenty.

Vote 4: Ladders Out of Poverty

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

SF 1770 - Senator Michael Jungbauer / HF 2062 – Representative Morrie Lanning stems directly from the work of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020. The legislation establishes a legislative workgroup charged with developing recommendations on asset building for poor and near-poor families, addressing predatory lending and expanding utilization of the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota or other culturally specific asset development programs.

The legislation passed the Senate 65 to 2 (*Senate Journal*, page 10876, May 10, 2010), the House 110 to 22 (*House*

Journal, page 13068, May 14, 2010) and was signed into law by Governor Pawlenty.

Vote 5: Juvenile Justice Omnibus Conference Committee Report

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

SF 2790, authored by Senator Mee Moua and Representative John Lesch, is the agreement between the House and Senate on juvenile justice issues. The legislation includes reforms to help juveniles reach their full potential as adults by modifying provisions related to and authorizing the expungement of certain juvenile records. These provisions improve the current system because they help keep doors open to opportunities for youth, an important step in redirecting youth on to a path to a productive adulthood.

The legislation passed the Senate 46 to 14 (*Senate Journal*, page 10730, May 8, 2010), the House 79 to 53 (*House Journal*, page 12067, May 10, 2010), but was vetoed by Governor Pawlenty.



Minnesota Senate Scorecard 2009–2010

| Representative | District | Hometown | 2009 HHS | 2009 Tax/ Revenue Increase | 2010 Early Childhood Policy | 2010 Ladders Out of Poverty | 2010 Juvenile Justice | Rating |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL) | 66 | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Bakk, Thomas M. (DFL) | 6 | Cook | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Berglin, Linda (DFL) | 61 | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Betzold, Don (DFL) | 51 | Fridley | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Bonoff, Terri E. (DFL) | 43 | Minnetonka | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Carlson, Jim (DFL) | 38 | Eagan | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Chaudhary, Satveer S. (DFL) | 50 | Fridley | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Clark, Tarryl L. (DFL) | 15 | St. Cloud | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Cohen, Richard J. (DFL) | 64 | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Dahle, Kevin L. (DFL) | 25 | Northfield | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Day*, Dick (R) | 26 | Owatona | – | – | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0% |
| Dibble, D. Scott (DFL) | 60 | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Dille, Steve (R) | 18 | Dassel | + | MV | + | + | + | 100% |
| Doll, John P. (DFL) | 40 | Burnsville | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Erickson Ropes, Sharon L. (DFL) | 31 | Winona | + | + | + | + | MV | 100% |
| Fischbach, Michelle L. (R) | 14 | Paynesville | MV | – | + | + | – | 50% |
| Fobbe, Lisa A. (DFL) | 16 | Zimmerman | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Foley, Leo T. (DFL) | 47 | Coon Rapids | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Frederickson, Dennis R. (R) | 21 | New Ulm | + | – | + | + | – | 60% |
| Gerlach, Chris (R) | 37 | Apple Valley | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Gimse, Joe (R) | 13 | Willmar | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Hann, David W. (R) | 42 | Eden Prairie | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Higgins, Linda (DFL) | 58 | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Ingebrigtsen, Bill G. (R) | 11 | Alexandria | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Johnson, Debbie J. (R) | 49 | Ham Lake | – | – | – | + | MV | 25% |
| Jungbauer, Michael J. (R) | 48 | East Bethel | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Kelash, Kenneth S. (DFL) | 63 | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Koch, Amy T. (R) | 19 | Buffalo | – | – | + | – | – | 20% |
| Koering, Paul E. (R) | 12 | Fort Ripley | – | – | – | + | MV | 25% |
| Kubly, Gary W. (DFL) | 20 | Granite Falls | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Langseth, Keith (DFL) | 9 | Glyndon | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Latz, Ron (DFL) | 44 | St. Louis Park | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Limmer, Warren (R) | 32 | Maple Grove | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Lourey, Tony (DFL) | 8 | Kerrick | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |

Key: “+” means the member voted with the CDF Action Council position; “–” means the member voted against the CDF Action Council position. “MV” means the member missed the vote; missed votes are not used in calculating the legislators’ percentages.

*Sen. Day served his term through the first year of the biennium; Sen. Parry was elected in a special election to fill the seat. Ratings for Sen. Day are based on 2009 votes and ratings for Sen. Parry are based on 2010 votes.

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|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Lynch, Ann (DFL) | 30 | Rochester | + | + | + | – | + | 80% |
| Marty, John (DFL) | 54 | Roseville | – | + | + | + | MV | 75% |
| Metzen, James P. (DFL) | 39 | South St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Michel, Geoff (R) | 41 | Edina | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Moua, Mee (DFL) | 67 | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Murphy, Steve (DFL) | 28 | Red Wing | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Olseen, Rick E. (DFL) | 17 | Harris | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Olson, Gen (R) | 33 | Minnetrista | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Olson, Mary A. (DFL) | 4 | Bemidji | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Ortman, Julianne E. (R) | 34 | Chanhassen | – | – | – | + | + | 40% |
| Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL) | 65 | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Pariseau, Pat (R) | 36 | Farmington | – | – | + | + | MV | 50% |
| Parry*, Mike (R) | 26 | Waseca | N/A | N/A | – | + | – | 33% |
| Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL) | 59 | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Prettner Solon, Yvonne (DFL)* | 7 | Duluth | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Rest, Ann H. (DFL) | 45 | New Hope | MV | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Robling, Claire A. (R) | 35 | Jordan | – | MV | + | + | + | 75% |
| Rosen, Julie A. (R) | 24 | Fairmont | + | MV | + | + | MV | 100% |
| Rummel, Sandy (DFL) | 53 | White Bear Lake | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Saltzman, Kathy L. (DFL) | 56 | Woodbury | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Saxhaug, Tom (DFL) | 3 | Grand Rapids | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Scheid, Linda (DFL) | 46 | Brooklyn Park | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Senjem, David H. (R) | 29 | Rochester | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Sheran, Kathy (DFL) | 23 | Mankato | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Sieben, Katie (DFL) | 57 | Newport | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Skoe, Rod (DFL) | 2 | Clearbrook | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Skogen, Dan (DFL) | 10 | Hewitt | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Sparks, Dan (DFL) | 27 | Austin | + | – | + | + | MV | 75% |
| Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL) | 1 | Plummer | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Tomassoni, David J. (DFL) | 5 | Chisholm | + | – | + | + | + | 80% |
| Torres Ray, Patricia (DFL) | 62 | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Vanderveer, Ray J. (R) | 52 | Forest Lake | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Vickerman, Jim (DFL) | 22 | Tracy | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Wiger, Charles W. (DFL) | 55 | North St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |

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| Abeler, Jim (R) | 48B | Anoka | + | – | + | + | + | 80% |
| Anderson, Bruce (R) | 19A | Buffalo Township | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Anderson, Paul (R) | 13A | Starbuck | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Anderson, Sarah (R) | 43A | Plymouth | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Anzenc, Tom (DFL) | 03A | Balsam Township | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Atkins, Joe (DFL) | 39B | Inver Grove Heights | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Beard, Michael (R) | 35A | Shakopee | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Benson, John (DFL) | 43B | Minnetonka | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Bigham, Karla (DFL) | 57A | Cottage Grove | + | + | + | – | + | 80% |
| Bly, David (DFL) | 25B | Northfield | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Brod, Laura (R) | 25A | New Prague | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Brown, Robin (DFL) | 27A | Moscow Township | – | + | + | + | + | 80% |
| Brynaert, Kathy (DFL) | 23B | Mankato | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Buesgens, Mark (R) | 35B | Jordan | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Bunn, Julie (DFL) | 56A | Lake Elmo | + | + | + | + | – | 80% |
| Carlson Sr., Lyndon (DFL) | 45B | Crystal | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Champion, Bobby Joe (DFL) | 58B | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Clark, Karen (DFL) | 61A | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Cornish, Tony (R) | 24B | Good Thunder | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Davids, Greg (R) | 31B | Preston | – | – | – | MV | – | 0% |
| Davnie, Jim (DFL) | 62A | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Dean, Matt (R) | 52B | Dellwood | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Demmer, Randy (R) | 29A | Hayfield | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Dettmer, Bob (R) | 52A | Forest Lake | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Dill, David (DFL) | 06A | Crane Lake | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Dittrich, Denise (DFL) | 47A | Champlin | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Doepke, Connie (R) | 33B | Orono | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Doty, Al (DFL) | 12B | Royalton | + | + | + | + | – | 80% |
| Downey, Keith (R) | 41A | Edina | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Drazkowski, Steve (R) | 28B | Mazeppa | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Eastlund, Rob (R) | 17A | Isanti | MV | – | – | + | – | 25% |

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| Eken, Kent (DFL) | 02A | Twin Valley | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Emmer, Tom (R) | 19B | Delano | – | – | – | – | MV | 0% |
| Falk, Andrew (DFL) | 20A | Murdock | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Faust, Tim (DFL) | 08B | Hinckley | + | + | + | + | – | 80% |
| Fritz, Patti (DFL) | 26B | Faribault | + | + | + | + | – | 80% |
| Gardner, Paul (DFL) | 53A | Shoreview | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Garofalo, Pat (R) | 36B | Farmington | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Gottwalt, Steve (R) | 15A | St. Cloud | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Greiling, Mindy (DFL) | 54A | Roseville | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Gunther, Bob (R) | 24A | Fairmont | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Hackbarth, Tom (R) | 48A | Cedar | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Hamilton, Rod (R) | 22B | Mountain Lake | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Hansen, Rick (DFL) | 39A | South St. Paul | + | + | + | – | + | 80% |
| Hausman, Alice (DFL) | 66B | St. Paul | + | + | + | – | + | 80% |
| Haws, Larry (DFL) | 15B | St. Cloud | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Hayden, Jeff (DFL) | 61B | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Hilstrom, Debra (DFL) | 46B | Brooklyn Center | + | + | MV | + | + | 100% |
| Hilty, Bill (DFL) | 08A | Finlayson | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Holberg, Mary Liz (R) | 36A | Lakeville | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Hoppe, Joe (R) | 34B | Chaska | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Hornstein, Frank (DFL) | 60B | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Hortman, Melissa (DFL) | 47B | Brooklyn Park | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Hosch, Larry (DFL) | 14B | St. Joseph | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Howes, Larry (R) | 04B | Walker | – | – | – | + | + | 40% |
| Huntley, Thomas (DFL) | 07A | Duluth | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Jackson, Gail Kulick (DFL) | 16A | Milaca | + | + | + | + | – | 80% |
| Johnson, Sheldon (DFL) | 67B | St. Paul | + | + | + | – | + | 80% |
| Juhnke, Al (DFL) | 13B | Willmar | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Kahn, Phyllis (DFL) | 59B | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Kalin, Jeremy (DFL) | 17B | North Branch | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Kath, Kory (DFL) | 26A | Owatonna | + | + | + | – | – | 60% |

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|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL) | 60A | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Kelly, Tim (R) | 28A | Red Wing | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Kiffmeyer, Mary (R) | 16B | Big Lake | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Knuth, Kate (DFL) | 50B | New Brighton | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Koenen, Lyle (DFL) | 20B | Clara City | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Kohls, Paul (R) | 34A | Victoria | – | – | – | – | – | 0% |
| Laine, Carolyn (DFL) | 50A | Columbia Heights | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Lanning, Morrie (R) | 09A | Moorhead | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Lenczewski, Ann (DFL) | 40B | Bloomington | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Lesch, John (DFL) | 66A | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Liebling, Tina (DFL) | 30A | Rochester | – | + | + | + | + | 80% |
| Lieder, Bernard (DFL) | 01B | Crookston | + | + | + | – | + | 80% |
| Lillie, Leon (DFL) | 55A | North St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Loeffler, Diane (DFL) | 59A | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Loon, Jenifer (R) | 42B | Eden Prairie | – | – | + | – | – | 20% |
| Mack, Tara (R) | 37A | Apple Valley | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Magnus, Doug (R) | 22A | Slayton | – | MV | + | + | – | 50% |
| Mahoney, Tim (DFL) | 67A | St. Paul | MV | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Mariani, Carlos (DFL) | 65B | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Marquart, Paul (DFL) | 09B | Dilworth | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Masin, Sandra (DFL) | 38A | Eagan | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| McFarlane, Carol (R) | 53B | White Bear Lake | – | MV | + | + | – | 50% |
| McNamara, Denny (R) | 57B | Hastings | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Morgan, Will (DFL) | 40A | Burnsville | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Morrow, Terry (DFL) | 23A | St. Peter | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Mullery, Joe (DFL) | 58A | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Murdock, Mark (R) | 10B | Ottertail | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Murphy, Erin (DFL) | 64A | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Murphy, Mary (DFL) | 06B | Hermantown | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Nelson, Michael V. (DFL) | 46A | Brooklyn Park | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Newton, Jerry (DFL) | 49B | Coon Rapids | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |

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Minnesota House Scorecard 2009–2010

| Senator | District | Hometown | 2009 HHS | 2009 Tax/ Revenue Increase | 2010 Early Childhood Policy | 2010 Ladders Out of Poverty | 2010 Juvenile Justice | Rating |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Nornes, Bud (R) | 10A | Fergus Falls | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Norton, Kim (DFL) | 29B | Rochester | – | + | + | + | – | 60% |
| Obermueller, Mike (DFL) | 38B | Eagan | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Olin, Dave (DFL) | 01A | Thief River Falls | + | + | + | + | – | 80% |
| Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL) | 11B | Long Prairie | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Paymar, Michael (DFL) | 64B | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Pelowski, Jr., Gene (DFL) | 31A | Winona | – | – | + | – | + | 40% |
| Peppin, Joyce (R) | 32A | Rogers | – | – | – | – | MV | 0% |
| Persell, John (DFL) | 04A | Bemidji | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Peterson, Sandra (DFL) | 45A | New Hope | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Poppe, Jeanne (DFL) | 27B | Austin | – | + | + | – | + | 60% |
| Reinert, Roger (DFL) | 07B | Duluth | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Rosenthal, Paul (DFL) | 41B | Edina | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Rukavina, Tom (DFL) | 05A | Virginia | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Ruud, Maria (DFL) | 42A | Minnetonka | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Sailer, Brita (DFL) | 02B | Park Rapids | + | + | + | – | + | 80% |
| Sanders, Tim (R) | 51A | Blaine | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Scalze, Bev (DFL) | 54B | Little Canada | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Scott, Peggy (R) | 49A | Andover | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Seifert, Marty (R) | 21A | Marshall | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Sertich, Anthony “Tony” (DFL) | 05B | Chisholm | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Severson, Dan (R) | 14A | Sauk Rapids | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |
| Shimanski, Ron (R) | 18A | Silver Lake | – | MV | – | – | – | 0% |
| Simon, Steve (DFL) | 44A | St. Louis Park | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Slawik, Nora (DFL) | 55B | Maplewood | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Slocum, Linda (DFL) | 63B | Richfield | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Smith, Steve (R) | 33A | Mound | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Solberg, Loren (DFL) | 03B | Grand Rapids | MV | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Sterner, Phillip (DFL) | 37B | Rosemount | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Swails, Marsha (DFL) | 56B | Woodbury | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Thao, Cy (DFL) | 65A | St. Paul | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |

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| Senator | District | Hometown | 2009 HHS | 2009 Tax/ Revenue Increase | 2010 Early Childhood Policy | 2010 Ladders Out of Poverty | 2010 Juvenile Justice | Rating |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Thissen, Paul (DFL) | 63A | Minneapolis | + | + | + | MV | + | 100% |
| Tillberry, Tom (DFL) | 51B | Fridley | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Torkelson, Paul (R) | 21B | Nelson Township | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Urdahl, Dean (R) | 18B | Grove City | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Wagenius, Jean (DFL) | 62B | Minneapolis | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Ward, John (DFL) | 12A | Brainerd | + | + | + | + | – | 80% |
| Welti, Andy (DFL) | 30B | Plainview | – | + | + | + | – | 60% |
| Westrom, Torrey (R) | 11A | Elbow Lake | – | – | + | + | – | 40% |
| Winkler, Ryan (DFL) | 44B | Golden Valley | + | + | + | + | + | 100% |
| Zellers, Kurt (R) | 32B | Maple Grove | – | – | – | + | – | 20% |

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Cover All Kids

One positive outcome of a difficult biennium is the Cover All Kids legislation, authored by Senator Linda Berglin (DFL-Minneapolis) and Representative Paul Thissen (DFL-Minneapolis) enacted during the 2009 session as part of the Health and Human Services budget bill.

The Cover All Kids legislation increases access to health care coverage for 22,000 children by reducing cost and enrollment barriers to MinnesotaCare. Barrier reduction is an ongoing goal of CDF Minnesota and CDF Minnesota strongly advocated for these measures along with the members of the Make Health Happen Campaign.

Below are the MinnesotaCare barriers that were removed for all children at or below 200% of the FPG (\$44,100 for a family of four).*

High Premiums: Exempts children under 200% FPG from premiums.

Employer-Sponsored Insurance: Access to employer-sponsored insurance will no longer exclude children at or below 200% FPG from MinnesotaCare. In particular, the “50% rule” will no longer apply. The 50% rule states that if an employee has access to employer-sponsored insurance for which the employer pays at least 50% of the premium, the employee (and his or her family in the case of family coverage) is not eligible for MinnesotaCare. Under the new legislation, children at or below 200% FPG will be exempt from the 50% rule. This exemption is important because paying up to 50% of health care premiums is unaffordable for many working Minnesotans.

Four-month waiting period: Children under 200% FPG no longer need to remain uninsured for four months before becoming eligible for MinnesotaCare. Eliminating this requirement will allow children to receive preventive care and necessary health services continuously.



In addition, the legislation directs the Departments of Human Services and Education to develop recommendations to create an open enrollment process for public health care programs that is tied to the public education system. This is intended to maximize access for children and their families through the public education system, in particular during the “back to school” period.

The legislation also includes a provision that requires automatic renewal with electronic verification for children when necessary paperwork is not provided in a timely manner. This provision applies to all children on MinnesotaCare (up to 275% FPG). Parents remain responsible for the premium where applicable. Significant paperwork requirements often result in loss of coverage at renewal. This provision will lessen the administrative burden and help keep children enrolled.

Finally, the legislation provides the option for children in families over 275% FPG—MinnesotaCare’s income limit

—to buy into the coverage (i.e. purchase MinnesotaCare at the full price opposed to paying just the sliding scale premium), providing an option for comprehensive coverage for all children.

This legislation is a strong step forward toward greater access to affordable, quality health care coverage for all Minnesota children. The barrier reduction for children under 200% of FPG creates universal access to health care coverage for poor and near-poor children in Minnesota.

Nevertheless, we cannot rest until we reach universal access for all Minnesota children. Call your legislator and thank them for their support of this legislation or, if they did not support the bill, let them know this issue is important to you and our state. Tell them the Cover All Kids legislation sets the course for universal children’s coverage and ask them to finish the job they have started.

* These changes require federal approval which is currently pending.

Children's Defense Fund Action Council

2010 Minnesota Legislative Scorecard

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About the Children's Defense Fund Action Council

The CDF Action Council provides a strong, effective voice for all children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of the poor children, minority children and those children with disabilities. The CDF Action Council educates the nation about the needs of children

and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown. The CDF Action Council began as a private, nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. We have never accepted government funds. For more information, visit www.cdfactioncouncil.org.

