



## League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA  
550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103  
612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417  
E-MAIL: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us  
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

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## M E M O R A N D U M

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**DATE:** 2/5/97  
**TO:** Ann Rest, Kevin Goodno, Phil Carruthers, and members of the  
Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Anne Borgen, President  
Carol Frisch, Action Chair  
**RE:** HF 117

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children. In keeping with this commitment, the League supports passage of HF 117 as introduced by Representative Ann Rest for the following reasons:

- 1) More and more young people are beginning to smoke. In Minnesota, the rate of teen smokers is higher than the national average (39% as compared to 33.5%).
- 2) The likelihood of becoming a lifelong smoker is greater when smoking is begun before age 18.
- 3) Smoking is linked to other risky behaviors in children including use of drugs, alcohol and early sexual activity.
- 4) While recent studies find overall teenage pregnancy rates in Minnesota are declining they remain a critical concern, especially among 15 to 17 year olds. Smoking is directly linked to low birth weight infants which increases a baby's risk of long and short-term illness. Findings suggest the negative effects on prenatal development of using tobacco prenatally are increased in younger women--they deliver smaller infants with more complications than do older women who smoke. (PEDIATRICS, May 1995)
- 5) The majority of adolescents in Minnesota obtain cigarettes on their own. According to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, 75% of retailers nationally sell cigarettes to minors. State and local surveys show that illegal tobacco sales are lower in communities with effective tobacco ordinances.

Please join us, in supporting HF 117. It is an excellent first step toward solving the complex problem of teenage smoking.

# ACTION

# ALERT



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103  
Phone 612-224-5445 • Fax 612-292-9417  
lwv@freenet.msp.mn.us  
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

TO: Local League Presidents  
FROM: Carol Frisch, LWVMN Action Chair  
SUBJECT: Welfare Reform and the Effects on Children  
DATE: March 24, 1997

1919  
A VOICE  
FOR CITIZENS,  
A FORCE  
FOR CHANGE  
1994

*LWVUS Position: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of affordable, quality child care for all who want it.*

*LWVMN Position: Support of coordinated public policies and funding to ensure safe, affordable, quality child care throughout the state.*

Child  
care

apply

## ACTION NEEDED:

Call members of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee with the simple message:

**Do not vote for amendments to the welfare reform package which weaken licensing provisions for child care providers or which would lower the exemption of single parents with babies under one year from the immediate work requirements to an exemption of 12 weeks.**

Members of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee:

Rep. Greenfield (DFL - dist 62A) 296-0173 - Chair  
Rep. Fran Bradley (R - dist 30A) 296-9249  
Rep. John Dorn (DFL - dist 24A) 296-3248  
Rep. Bill Haas (R - dist 48A) 296-5513  
Rep. Tom Huntley (DFL - dist 6B) 296-2228

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL - dist 18B) 296-0518  
Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL - dist 49B) 296-4231  
Rep. Ken Otremba (DFL - dist 11B) 296-3201  
Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R - dist 36A) 296-5506  
Rep. Barb Vickerman (R - dist 23A) 296-9303  
Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL - dist 61B) 296-7152

## SOME OF THE FACTS:

- Some think that regulations and red tape keep people from becoming family child care providers, but in fact, licensing provides basic safety, health and development protections for children at a minimal cost to the caregiver.

**As Minnesota expands child care to meet the demands of working parents leaving welfare to work, we must not put thousands of children at risk of harm or developmental neglect.**

- Some think that it's cost effective to require mothers of babies under 1 year old to go to work after 12 weeks, but in fact, one year of a TANF grant for a family of 2 (one parent, one infant) is approximately \$5200. One year of infant care in the seven county metropolitan area costs \$5500 for family care and \$8200 for child care centers.
- Currently, many areas in Minnesota are experiencing a shortage of infant care. Of the families who call Child Care Resource and Referrals, 59% are looking for infant and toddler care; 43% of callers do not find the child care they want for their children.

# ACTION

# ALERT



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## **ACTION NEEDED:**

Call members of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee with the simple message:

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## **SOME OF THE FACTS:**

- Some think that regulations and red tape keep people from becoming family child care providers, but in fact, licensing provides basic safety, health and development protections for children at a minimal cost to the caregiver.

**As Minnesota expands child care to meet the demands of working parents leaving welfare to work, we must not put thousands of children at risk of harm or developmental neglect.**

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ACTION ALERT

Welfare Reform

TO: ALL MINNESOTA LEAGUES

FROM: SUSAN SIMMONDS, VICE PRESIDENT/ACTION

RE: WELFARE REFORM BILL NOW GOING TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

DATE: APRIL 19, 1995

The letter on the reverse of this/<sup>was sent to</sup> the members of the conference committee which is considering HF 5 (Welfare Reform).

Members of the committee are:

Senators - Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), Betzold (DFL-Fridley), Piper (DFL-Austin), Robertson (IR-Minnetonka) and Hanson (DFL-Mam Lake)

Reps - Huntley (DFL-Duluth), Van Engen (IR-Spicer), Vickerman (IR-Redwood Falls), Lourey (DFL - Kerrick), Jennings (DFL-Harris).

LWVUS Position: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

LWVMN Position: Support of coordinated public policies and funding to ensure safe, affordable, quality child care throughout the state.

LWVUS Position: Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

WHAT TO DO:

The letter outlines the key points which we wish to make to members of the committee. They will be meeting in conference for the next week so a call or letter very soon is in order. You are urged to call whether or not you are a constituent of the committee members but constituents are particularly urged to make a contact.



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

April 19, 1995

Dear Member of HF 5 Conference Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota urges you to support the full appropriation to the sliding-fee child care program of \$18.8 million as stated in Governor Carlson's budget. We believe that any amount less than that makes it even more difficult for a parent to live without being dependent on state welfare funding. In any effort to ultimately reduce state spending for family welfare, an increase in child care spending is absolutely necessary so that parents are able to attend work training and other educational programs and/or be employed in the public and private sectors. Investing in child care is a sound economic decision for Minnesota.

The League of Women Voters is opposed to a cap of two years on AFDC benefits. In the current economic climate it is not reasonable to believe that a parent could be trained and find employment which pays a living wage in just two years. There are ways to monitor perceived or real abuses of the AFDC benefits as they currently exist, but to establish an inflexible and very limited time for assistance would be a punitive policy for many families.

Sincerely,

Kay Erickson  
President

KE/nw



THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

cc: [unclear]  
[unclear]  
KE  
SS  
NWV ✓  
SS

January 31, 1994

Donna Fishman, Director  
MOAPP  
P.O. Box 40392  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Ms. Fishman:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota was a founding member of MOAPP and has long supported its programs. We are pleased to support MOAPP's request to the Sheltering Arms Foundation for funds to encourage policy development re teen pregnancy issues on the local level.

Strengths of the proposal include bringing together for training key community decision-makers, and creating speakers bureaus to educate the public.

We will be available to assist in planning for various components of the proposal. Good luck in your efforts to fund this important program.

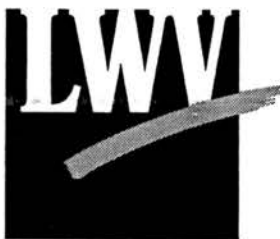
Sincerely,

*Kay Erickson*

Kay Erickson  
President

KE/rk





## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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✓ KE  
✓ S. Dankel  
NW  
File 1993  
Testimony

Testimony before the Ways and Means Budget Committee of the Hennepin County Board  
Wednesday, November 3, 1993

I am Catherine Shreves, President of the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis, and speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota and the 13 local Leagues within Hennepin County (see attached list).

Non-AFDC families, who are the working poor, wait more than two years for child care subsidies in Hennepin County.

As a result of its comprehensive study of child care issues in Minnesota, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports adequate funding of a child care sliding fee program to ensure quality child care for low income children. The League believes that full funding of the sliding fee program is key to supporting families' efforts to be self-sufficient and to ensure safe, reliable quality child care for their children. Alternatives for parents to affordable care include leaving their children in unsafe, unreliable, or inappropriate care; leaving children home alone; and returning to or going on AFDC. These options are not acceptable. An important benefit of broader access to high quality care for young children is that high quality care contributes to children's readiness to succeed in school.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has consistently advocated with the state legislature and the Minnesota Congressional delegation for increased funding for sliding fee child care. However, the need in Hennepin County is so great that we join in the efforts to increase Hennepin County sliding fee dollars by \$1 million.

The May 1993 study by League of Women Voters of Minneapolis, *Valuing Children: The First Step, Early Childhood Care and Education in Minneapolis*, reinforces the League's commitment to advocate for policies that support parents' ability to access safe, reliable, appropriate care for their children -- most critically, their ability to pay for it. The average cost of child care during the 1980s soared nearly 100 percent in the seven-county metropolitan area (page 4). The cost to a parent of providing a full year of child care for a preschooler ranges between \$4,200 and \$5,200; the cost for infants and toddlers is higher. Without subsidies, this care is unaffordable for lower income, working parents. Without reliable child care, these families are at risk of turning to AFDC for support, prolonging a cycle of dependency over self-sufficiency.

It is good public policy to support families who are trying to maintain their lives with minimal governmental assistance. Until the cost of quality child care is affordable for lower income, working parents, the sliding fee program must be adequately funded with additional dollars from all levels of government in order to provide the necessary support for these families.



## Leagues of Women Voters in Hennepin County

League of Women Voters of Bloomington  
Pat Bugenstein, President (888-5309)

League of Women Voters of Brooklyn Center  
Barbara Sexton, President (537-2118)

League of Women Voters of Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove  
Diane Berning, Co-President (536-1092)  
Cheryl Heide, Co-President (424-5726)

League of Women Voters of Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth  
Joann Brown, Co-President (545-7369)  
Jeanne M. Nelson, Co-President (544-8575)

League of Women Voters of Edina  
Carol Frisch, Co-President (829-0604)  
Connie Hondl, Co-President (944-1229)

League of Women Voters of Fridley  
Janis Larson, President (788-0728)

League of Women Voters of Golden Valley  
Linda Loomis, President (545-4659)

League of Women Voters of Minneapolis  
Catherine Shreves, President (333-6319)

League of Women Voters of Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins  
Cynthia Clish, President (934-7796)

League of Women Voters of Richfield  
Gertrude Ulrich, President (866-8171)

League of Women Voters of Robbinsdale  
Mary Hawkins, President (535-1836)

League of Women Voters of St. Louis Park  
Lois Cheney, President (922-5766)

League of Women Voters of Wayzata/Plymouth Area  
Jenny Martin, President (593-5237)



## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103  
PHONE (612) 224-5445

# action

### INCREASE FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE

TO: Selected Local League Presidents and/or Action Chairs

FROM: Polly Keppel, Lobbyist 612/341-1177

DATE: March 22, 1993

RE: Child Care Basic Fee Sliding Program

LWVUS Position: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

LWVMN Position: Support of coordinated public policies and funding to ensure safe, affordable, quality child care throughout the state.

To address the continued need of funding for child car assistance for low income families in work or school in Minnesota, House File (H.F.) 402 and Senate File (S.F.) 642 have been introduced. These bills will increase funding for the Child Care Basic Sliding Fee Program.

The Basic Sliding Fee Program, begun in 1980, subsidizes the child care costs of low income working Minnesota families. A family using the program pays a portion of its child care expenses based on its size and income. The 1993 strategy is to move toward funding the full need for child care subsidy by funding two-thirds of eligible families in this biennium. This proposal requires \$50 million in additional funding.

The needs for funding of the Basic Sliding Fee Program are many:

- \* 6,200 Minnesota families are on the waiting list for this fund.
- \* In 16 counties, families must wait at least one year for child care assistance.
- \* If there is no increase in the sliding fee program, 773 fewer families will get child care assistance in 1995 than are getting assistance in 1993, because of the increased cost of child care.

The benefits of passing H.F. 402 and S.F. 642 are:

- \* The Sliding Fee Program is the best Minnesota program to help families stay working.
- \* Prevents dependence on AFDC.
- \* Pays for quality early childhood care and education.
- \* Provides funds for school age child care reducing chances that children will be left "home alone".

ACTION: Call or write Governor Carlson (612/296-3391) and your state senator and state representative serving on the House Health Care and Family Services Finance Division and the Senate Human Services Finance Division. Ask them to support S.F. 642 and/or H.F. 402 to increase funding for the child care basic sliding fee program.

Please send your letter by April 15, 1993.

House Human Services Finance Division members and their districts:  
375 State Office Bldg. 612/296-0173

Lee Greenfield, Chair	62A
Bob Anderson	10A
Roger Cooper	15B
Gregory Davids	31B
Edwina Garcia	63B
Dave Gruenes	16B
Gil Gutknecht	30A
Thomas Huntley	6B
Loren Jennings	18B
Darlene Luther	47A
Pam Neary	56B
Wayne Simoneau	52A
Brad Stanius	55A
Barb Vickerman	23A

Senate Health Care and Family Services Division members and their districts: 124 Capitol 612/296-4875

Don Samuelson, Chair	12
Duane Benson	31
Linda Berglin	61
Don Betzold	48
Dick Day	28
Sheila Kiscaden	30
Pat Piper	27
Phil Riveness	40
Dallas Sams	11
Sam Solon	7
Dan Stevens	17
Jim Vickerman	22