

February 23, 2022

Representative Paul Marquart
Chair, House Taxes Committee
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marquart and House Taxes Committee members:

We believe that the resources available in the 2022 Legislative Session – the projected state budget surplus and flexible federal funds – represent a historic opportunity, and should be used to make transformational changes to build a future in which all Minnesotans are healthy, safe, and financially secure.

The COVID-related recession was likely the most unequal in modern history, and did the most harm to those with the least resources to get through it, including lower-income Minnesotans and Minnesotans of color. At the same time, many of those with the greatest income and wealth saw those resources grow.

The path to a stronger, more equitable recovery is through greater investment in the things that everyday Minnesotans and their families need to thrive, such as affordable child care and early learning opportunities, affordable housing, paid family and medical leave, high quality education from the earliest years through college, infrastructure, and health care.

We are writing in support of Governor Walz’s approach in his budget to invest in Minnesotans, their families, and communities, focusing on those hardest hit by the pandemic and the disparities and disinvestment that preceded it.

We also thank the governor for proposing to expand tax credits targeted to low- and moderate-income Minnesotans that help bring down the costs of raising a family and maintaining a home.

We look forward to further conversation with the committee about tax policies to make Minnesota a place where everyone can thrive. Please contact Nan Madden (nmadden@mnbudgetproject.org) if there is any additional information we can provide.

Sincerely,

AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Council 65
Center for Economic Inclusion
Children’s Defense Fund-Minnesota
Education Minnesota
Growth & Justice
Main Street Alliance of Minnesota
Minnesota Asset Building Coalition

Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Nurses Association
Prepare + Prosper
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
TakeAction Minnesota
Youthprise