



CDF Action Council

The Child Defender

CDF Action Council Minnesota's Scorecard for the 2005 Legislative Session



Fall 2005 issue

Minnesota Scorecard4

Legislative Children's Champions.....10

Federal Scorecard17

Each year, state senators and representatives cast numerous votes that impact the health and well-being of Minnesota's children. During the 2005 legislative session, state lawmakers set the FY 2006-2007 budget, resulting in a host of votes on programs and policies that will affect children and families for the next two years and beyond. Because children cannot vote or speak for themselves, the CDF Action Council produces an annual scorecard to show how legislators voted on behalf of children. This scorecard includes key votes from the 2005 legislative session on issues that impact the health, safety, education and economic security of Minnesota's youngest citizens.

Following severe program cuts in 2003 that hurt Minnesota's children and families, the 2005 session was critical. The 2005 session began with a projected \$466 million budget deficit, setting the stage for another round of deep cuts. Protecting the viability of child care assistance and public health care programs, which help children stay healthy and safe while allowing parents to remain in the workforce and off welfare, were two key areas of focus this year. Both areas suffered drastic cuts in 2003 resulting in 20,000 children losing health care coverage and 10,000 children leaving the Child Care Assistance program. New reductions were proposed for

both areas during the 2005 session. After a significant stalemate, the session ended with mixed results: health care programs were preserved while child care suffered additional losses. In other key areas, the 2005 session marks some progress for children.

This report card contains six key votes for both senators and representatives. The votes cover a range of issues that impact children and families including access to health care, child care and early education programs; child safety (conceal and carry handgun bill) and the minimum wage increase. Revenue-related votes that helped determine the dollars legislators had to work with to set the budget are also included.

It is important to note that selecting votes for a scorecard can be difficult for many reasons. Many legislators take actions that are never recorded as a vote, such as introducing legislation or speaking on the floor or in committees. In addition, key issues are often included in large omnibus bills (budget bills for each spending area). In some cases, these large bills contain hundreds of provisions that both benefit and hurt children and families. For this reason, the CDF Action Council could not take a position on the final Health and Human Services bill, which held health care programs harmless but included deep cuts to child care.

This scorecard is part of CDF Action Council's ongoing policy analysis and advocacy for children. **The scores should not be interpreted as an endorsement of or opposition to any legislator.** Children cannot vote or express their needs, so it is important for all of us who have a voice to advocate on their behalf and help lawmakers understand the impact their votes have on children. The CDF Action Council hopes that you will continue to tell lawmakers what is important for the children in your community.

New this Year: Legislative Children's Champions

For the first time, the CDF Action Council is recognizing legislators who are champions for children. Legislative Children's Champions are lawmakers who scored 100% on the CDF Action Council scorecard and have demonstrated their commitment to children's well-being by signing on to either the Children's Health Security Act (SF 20-Prettner Solon; HF 132-Thissen) or the Child Care Access Bill (SF 1110-Scheid; HF 1329-Slawik). Check the list on page 10 to see if your senator or representative is a Legislative Children's Champion!

For more information on the scorecard or the 2005 legislative session, contact Carole Spektor at 651-855-1188 or spektor@cdf-mn.org.

2005 Senate Votes



Vote 1: Health and Human Services Funding

SF 2278, the Senate Omnibus Health and Human Services bill, authored by Senator Linda Berglin, did not include any of the major health and human services cuts proposed by the Minnesota House and Governor Pawlenty. Instead, the bill repealed some of the cuts enacted in 2003, providing greater access to health care and child care assistance and increasing monthly income for families. Specifically, the legislation repealed benefit caps for public health care program enrollees; co-payments for adults on public health care programs; and “penalties” that reduced cash grants for MFIP families receiving a housing subsidy and MFIP families with more than one SSI recipient per household. The bill also increased income eligibility and decreased child care assistance co-payments for MFIP and MFIP transition year families. The bill *passed* 38 to 29. *Senate Journal*, page 2378, May 4, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**



Vote 2: Child Care and Early Education Funding

SF 2277, the Omnibus Early Childhood Education bill, authored by Senator John Hottinger, included provisions to increase access to affordable, quality child care for low-income working families as well as early childhood education programs. The bill increased income eligibility and lowered parent co-payments for the Child Care Assistance program. The legislation also included increased funding for three early education programs – Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness—that provide services to help children thrive during early years of development. In

addition, the legislation established and allocated \$2.5 million for the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation, a public-private partnership that will provide resources to help prepare low-income children for kindergarten. The bill *passed* 59 to 8. *Senate Journal*, page 2415, May 5, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**



Vote 3: Increased Revenue

SF 2206, the Omnibus Tax bill, authored by Senator Larry Pogemiller, added a new individual income tax bracket for the highest income Minnesotans. This new tax would have generated \$963 million in new revenue over the biennium to pay down the deficit and avoid many program cuts. In addition, the legislation did not include cuts to the renters’ credit as proposed by the Minnesota House and Governor Pawlenty. The renters’ credit provides property tax relief and housing assistance to low- and moderate-income households with high housing costs. The bill *passed* 35 to 28. *Senate Journal*, page 2519, May 6, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**



Vote 4: Minimum Wage Increase

The Minnesota Senate voted on SF 3/HF 48, authored by Senator Ellen Anderson and Representative Tom Rukavina respectively, as amended by the House. The legislation increased the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour—the lowest amount allowed by federal law—to \$6.15 per hour. It is estimated that \$100 million will go into the pockets of low-income workers as a result of the increase, which went into effect August 1, 2005. The bill *passed* 44 to 22. *Senate Journal*, page 2314, May 3, 2005.

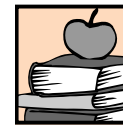
CDF Action Council Position: **Support**



Vote 5: Concealed Handguns

SF 2259/HF 2428, authored by Senator Pat Pariseau and Representative Larry Howes respectively, reenacted the Minnesota Personal Protection Act of 2003, which greatly expanded access to conceal and carry handgun permits. A state study evaluating the 2003 legislation estimated that the number of handgun permit holders will increase significantly over three years from 12,000 to 90,000. Already, a child or teen is killed by gunfire every week in Minnesota. The bill *passed* 44 to 21. *Senate Journal*, page 2710, May 13, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Oppose**



Vote 6: E-12 Education Funding Increases

HF 141, the final E-12 Education finance bill agreed on by the conference committee, contained a funding increase for K–12 education; \$11 million in new funding for two early childhood education programs—Head Start and Early Childhood Family Education; and funding to expand early childhood screenings for three-year-olds. The legislation also contained a \$1 million allocation for the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation, a public-private partnership that will provide resources to help prepare low-income children for kindergarten. The bill *passed* 64 to 2. *Senate Journal*, page 615, July 13, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

2005 House Votes



Vote 1: Budget Resolution Amendment to Raise Spending Cap

The amendment to HR 6, the House Budget Resolution, was introduced by Representatives Mindy Grieling and Dan Dorman to raise the House spending limit by \$358 million. Passage of this amendment would have resulted in increased funding for K-12 education and other key areas. The amendment *failed* 61 to 72. *House Journal*, page 1271, March 29, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**



Vote 2: Cuts to Health Care and Other Health and Human Services Funding

HF 1422, the House Omnibus Health bill, authored by Representative Fran Bradley, cut public health care programs by more than \$187 million with deep cuts in eligibility, premium increases and new co-payments for some public health care program enrollees. The premium changes included a \$1 per month increase for children on MinnesotaCare at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (just over \$29,000 for a family of four) and a 10% premium increase for all other MinnesotaCare families and children. MinnesotaCare is a premium-based subsidized health care program for low- and moderate-income Minnesotans. The eligibility cuts would have terminated MinnesotaCare coverage for more than 40,000 adults, including 8,000 parents. Thousands of these adults would have been left with no other affordable health care option. Not only did the legislation cut thousands of Minnesotans off of MinnesotaCare, it also required any excess dollars in the Health Care Access Fund, which was established to fund MinnesotaCare, to be transferred to the state's general fund where the dollars could be used for any state expense. The bill *passed* 74 to 59. *House Journal*, page 3384, April 29, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Oppose**



Vote 3: Cuts to Child Care and Other Health and Human Services Funding

HF 1976, the House Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development bill authored by Representative Bob Gunther, included a \$70 million cut to child care assistance and an increase in the “housing penalty” for MFIP recipients who receive public housing subsidies, reducing their cash grant by \$200 instead of the current \$50. While the legislation allocated \$2.2 million to provide services to reduce the risk of homelessness for youth who “age out” of the foster care system, it cut \$10.3 million from youth programs designed to provide employment services and job skills training to at-risk youth. The bill *passed* 68-66. *House Journal*, page 3367, April 29, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Oppose**



Vote 4: Minimum Wage Increase

SF 3/HF 48, authored by Senator Ellen Anderson and Representative Tom Rukavina respectively, increased Minnesota's minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour—the lowest amount allowed by federal law—to \$5.90 effective July 1, 2005 and \$6.65 effective July 1, 2006. The Minnesota House of Representatives amended the legislation to increase the minimum wage by one dollar to \$6.15 per hour. It is estimated that \$100 million will go into the pockets of low-income workers as a result of the one dollar increase which went into effect August 1, 2005. The bill *passed* 84 to 50. *House Journal*, page 3417, May 2, 2005.

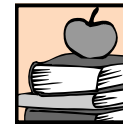
CDF Action Council Position: **Support**



Vote 5: Concealed Handguns

SF 2259/HF 2428, authored by Senator Pat Pariseau and Representative Larry Howes respectively, reenacted the Minnesota Personal Protection Act of 2003, which greatly expanded access to conceal and carry handgun permits. A state study evaluating the 2003 legislation estimated that the number of handgun permit holders will increase significantly over three years from 12,000 to 90,000. Already, a child or teen is killed by gunfire every week in Minnesota. The bill *passed* 86 to 47. *House Journal*, page 4114, May 18, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Oppose**



Vote 6: E-12 Education Funding Increases

HF 141 is the final E-12 Education finance bill agreed on by the conference committee. The legislation contained a funding increase for K-12 education; \$11 million in new funding for early childhood education programs including Head Start and Early Childhood Family Education; and funding to expand early childhood screenings for three-year-olds to increase early detection of special needs. The early education programs increases restored some of the cuts to the programs in 2003. The legislation also contained a \$1 million allocation for the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation, a public-private partnership that will provide resources to help prepare low-income children for kindergarten. The bill *passed* 122 to 8. *House Journal*, page 153, July 13, 2005.

CDF Action Council Position: **Support**

Minnesota Senate Scorecard 2005



SENATOR	DISTRICT	HOMETOWN	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3	Vote 4	Vote 5	Vote 6	Rating	Children's Champion*
CDF Action Council Position			Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Nay	Yea		
Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	66	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Bachmann, Michele (R)	52	Stillwater	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Bakk, Thomas M. (DFL)	6	Cook	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	40	Bloomington	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
Berglin, Linda (DFL)	61	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Betzold, Don (DFL)	51	Fridley	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	50	Fridley	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	64	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Day, Dick (R)	26	Owatonna	-	+	MV	-	-	+	40%	
Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	60	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Dille, Steve (R)	18	Dassel	+	+	MV	+	-	+	80%	
Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	14	Paynesville	+	+	-	-	-	+	50%	
Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	47	Coon Rapids	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	21	New Ulm	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%	
Gaither, David (R)	43	Plymouth	-	+	MV	-	-	+	40%	
Gerlach, Chris (R)	37	Apple Valley	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Hann, David (R)	42	Eden Prairie	-	+	-	-	MV	+	40%	
Higgins, Linda (DFL)	58	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	23	St. Peter	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	13	Willmar	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	49	Ham Lake	-	-	-	-	MV	+	20%	
Jungbauer, Michael J. (R)	48	East Bethel	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Kelley, Steve (DFL)	44	Hopkins	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Kierlin, Bob (R)	31	Winona	+	+	-	-	-	+	50%	
Kiscaden, Sheila M. (IP)	30	Rochester	+	+	+	MV	-	+	80%	
Kleis, Dave (R)	15	St. Cloud	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
Koering, Paul E. (R)	12	Fort Ripley	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%	
Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	20	Granite Falls	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Langseth, Keith (DFL)	9	Glyndon	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Larson, Cal (R)	10	Fergus Falls	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
LeClair, Brian (R)	56	Woodbury	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Limmer, Warren (R)	32	Maple Grove	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Lourey, Becky (DFL)	8	Kerrick	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Marko, Sharon (DFL)	57	Cottage Grove	-	+	+	+	+	+	83%	
Marty, John (DFL)	54	Roseville	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	

*Children's Champions have a 100% voting record and signed on to the Children's Health Security Act (SF 20-Prettner Solon; HF 132-Thissen) or the Child Care Access bill (SF 1110-Scheid; HF1329-Slawik).

Key: "+" means the member voted with the CDF Action Council position; "-" means the person voted against the CDF Action Council position. "MV" means the member missed the vote; missed votes are not used in calculating the legislators' percentages.

Minnesota Senate Scorecard 2005









SENATOR	DISTRICT	HOMETOWN	Vote 1 Yea	Vote 2 Yea	Vote 3 Yea	Vote 4 Yea	Vote 5 Nay	Vote 6 Yea	Rating	Children's Champion*
CDF Action Council Position										
McGinn, Mike (R)	38	Eagan	-	+	-	-	+	+	50%	
Metzen, James P. (DFL)	39	South St. Paul	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Michel, Geoff (R)	41	Edina	-	+	-	-	+	+	50%	
Moua, Mee (DFL)	67	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	-	83%	
Murphy, Steve (DFL)	28	Red Wing	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	25	Northfield	-	+	-	+	-	+	50%	
Nienow, Sean R. (R)	17	Cambridge	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
Olson, Gen (R)	33	Minnetrista	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
Ortman, Julianne E. (R)	34	Chanhausen	-	+	-	+	-	+	50%	
Ourada, Mark (R)	19	Buffalo	-	+	-	+	-	+	50%	
Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	65	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Pariseau, Pat (R)	36	Farmington	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	59	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	-	83%	
Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	63	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Reiter, Mady (R)	53	Shoreview	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	45	New Hope	-	+	+	+	+	MV	80%	
Robling, Claire A. (R)	35	Jordan	-	+	-	+	-	+	50%	
Rosen, Julie A. (R)	24	Fairmont	-	+	-	+	-	+	50%	
Ruud, Carrie L. (R)	4	Breezy Point	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	11	Staples	+	+	MV	+	-	+	80%	
Saxhaug, Tom (DFL)	3	Grand Rapids	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Scheid, Linda (DFL)	46	Brooklyn Park	-	+	+	+	-	+	67%	
Senjem, David H. (R)	29	Rochester	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
Skoe, Rod (DFL)	2	Clearbrook	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Skoglund, Wesley J. (DFL)	62	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Solon, Yvonne Prettner (DFL)	7	Duluth	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Sparks, Dan (DFL)	27	Austin	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	1	Plummer	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	5	Chisholm	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	22	Tracy	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Wergin, Betsy L. (R)	16	Princeton	-	+	-	-	-	+	33%	
Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	55	North St. Paul	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	

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Minnesota House Scorecard 2005

REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT	HOMETOWN							Rating	Children's Champion*
			Vote 1 Yea	Vote 2 Nay	Vote 3 Nay	Vote 4 Yea	Vote 5 Nay	Vote 6 Yea		
Abeler, Jim (R)	48B	Anoka	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Abrams, Ron (R)	43B	Minnetonka	-	+	-	-	+	+	50%	
Anderson, Bruce (R)	19A	Buffalo Township	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Anderson, Irv (DFL)	03A	International Falls	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Atkins, Joe (DFL)	39B	Inver Grove Heights	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Beard, Michael (R)	35A	Shakopee	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	51B	Fridley	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Blaine, Greg (R)	12B	Little Falls	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Bradley, Fran (R)	29B	Rochester	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Brod, Laura (R)	25A	New Prague	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Buesgens, Mark (R)	35B	Jordan	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Carlson, Lyndon (DFL)	45B	Crystal	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Charron, Mike (R)	56A	Woodbury	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Clark, Karen (DFL)	61A	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Cornish, Tony (R)	24B	Good Thunder	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Cox, Ray (R)	25B	Northfield	-	-	-	+	+	+	50%	
Cybart, Lloyd (R)	37A	Apple Valley	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Davids, Gregory (R)	31B	Preston	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Davnie, Jim (DFL)	62A	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Dean, Matt (R)	52B	Dellwood	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
DeLaForest, Chris (R)	49A	Andover	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Demmer, Randy (R)	29A	Hayfield	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Dempsey, Jerry (R)	28A	Red Wing	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Dill, David (DFL)	06A	Crane Lake	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Dittrich, Denise (DFL)	47A	Champlin	-	+	+	+	-	+	67%	
Dorman, Dan (R)	27A	Albert Lea	+	-	-	-	-	+	33%	
Dorn, John (DFL)	23B	Mankato	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Eastlund, Rob (R)	17A	Isanti	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Eken, Kent (DFL)	02A	Twin Valley	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Ellison, Keith (DFL)	58B	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Emmer, Tom (R)	19B	Delano	-	-	-	-	-	MV	0%	
Entenza, Matt (DFL)	64A	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Erhardt, Ron (R)	41A	Edina	+	+	-	+	+	+	83%	

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			Vote 1 Yea	Vote 2 Nay	Vote 3 Nay	Vote 4 Yea	Vote 5 Nay	Vote 6 Yea		
Erickson, Sondra (R)	16A	Princeton	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Finstad, Brad (R)	21B	New Ulm	-	-	-	-	MV	+	20%	
Fritz, Patti (DFL)	26B	Faribault	+	-	+	+	+	+	83%	
Garofalo, Pat (R)	36B	Farmington	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Gazelka, Paul (R)	12A	Brainerd	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	50A	Columbia Heights	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	54A	Roseville	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Gunther, Bob (R)	24A	Fairmont	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Hackbarth, Tom (R)	48A	Cedar	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Hamilton, Rod (R)	22B	Mountain Lake	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Hansen, Rick (DFL)	39A	South St. Paul	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Hausman, Alice (DFL)	66B	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Heidgerken, Bud (R)	13A	Freeport	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	46B	Brooklyn Center	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Hilty, Bill (DFL)	08A	Finlayson	+	+	+	+	+	-	83%	
Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	36A	Lakeville	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Hoppe, Joe (R)	34B	Chaska	-	-	-	-	-	+	20%	
Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	60B	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Hortman, Melissa (DFL)	47B	Brooklyn Park	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Hosch, Larry (DFL)	14B	St. Joseph	-	-	+	+	-	+	50%	
Howes, Larry (R)	04B	Walker	-	-	-	+	-	MV	20%	
Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	07A	Duluth	MV	-	+	+	+	+	80%	
Jaros, Mike (DFL)	07B	Duluth	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Johnson, Jeff (R)	43A	Plymouth	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	23A	St. Peter	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	67B	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Juhnke, Al (DFL)	13B	Willmar	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	59B	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	MV	100%	
Kelliher, Margaret										
Anderson (DFL)	60A	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Klinzing, Karen (R)	56B	Woodbury	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Knoblach, Jim (R)	15A	St. Cloud	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	20B	Clara City	+	-	+	+	-	+	67%	

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Minnesota House Scorecard 2005



REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT	HOMETOWN	Vote 1 Yea	Vote 2 Nay	Vote 3 Nay	Vote 4 Yea	Vote 5 Nay	Vote 6 Yea	Rating	Children's Champion*
Kohls, Paul (R)	34A	Victoria	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Krinkie, Philip (R)	53A	Shoreview	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Lanning, Morrie (R)	09A	Moorhead	-	-	-	-	+	+	33%	
Larson, Dan (DFL)	63B	Bloomington	-	+	+	+	+	+	83%	
Latz, Ron (DFL)	44B	St. Louis Park	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	40B	Bloomington	-	-	+	+	+	+	67%	
Lesch, John (DFL)	66A	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Liebling, Tina (DFL)	30A	Rochester	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Lieder, Bernard (DFL)	01B	Crookston	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Lillie, Leon (DFL)	55A	North St. Paul	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Loeffler, Diane (DFL)	59A	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Magnus, Doug (R)	22A	Slayton	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	67A	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	65B	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	MV	100%	
Marquart, Paul (DFL)	09B	Dilworth	+	-	+	+	-	+	67%	
McNamara, Denny (R)	57B	Hastings	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Meslow, Doug (R)	53B	White Bear Lake	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Moe, Frank (DFL)	04A	Bemidji	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Mullery, Joe (DFL)	58A	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Murphy, Mary (DFL)	06B	Hermantown	+	-	+	+	-	+	67%	
Nelson, Michael (DFL)	46A	Brooklyn Park	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Nelson, Peter (R)	17B	Lindstrom	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Newman, Scott (R)	18A	Hutchinson	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Nornes, Bud (R)	10A	Fergus Falls	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Olson, Mark (R)	16B	Big Lake	-	MV	-	-	-	-	0%	
Opatz, Joe (DFL)	15B	St. Cloud	-	+	+	+	-	+	67%	
Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	11B	Long Prairie	+	-	+	+	-	+	67%	
Ozment, Dennis (R)	37B	Rosemount	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Paulsen, Erik (R)	42B	Eden Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Paymar, Michael (DFL)	64B	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Pelowski, Jr., Gene (DFL)	31A	Winona	+	-	+	+	+	+	83%	
Penas, Maxine (R)	01A	Badger	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Peppin, Joyce (R)	32A	Rogers	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Peterson, Aaron (DFL)	20A	Madison	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★

*Children's Champions have a 100% voting record and signed on to the Children's Health Security Act (SF 20-Prettner Solon; HF 132-Thissen) or the Child Care Access bill (SF 1110-Scheid; HF1329-Slawik).

Key: "+" means the member voted with the CDF Action Council position; "-" means the person voted against the CDF Action Council position. "MV" means the member missed the vote; missed votes are not used in calculating the legislators' percentages.

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Peterson, Neil W. (R)	41B	Bloomington	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Peterson, Sandra (DFL)	45A	New Hope	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	27B	Austin	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Powell, Duke (R)	40A	Burnsville	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	05A	Virginia	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Ruth, Connie (R)	26A	Owatonna	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Ruud, Maria (DFL)	42A	Minnetonka	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Sailer, Brita (DFL)	02B	Park Rapids	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Samuelson, Char (R)	50B	New Brighton	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Scalze, Bev (DFL)	54B	Little Canada	-	+	+	+	+	+	83%	
Seifert, Marty (R)	21A	Marshall	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Sertich, Anthony (DFL)	05B	Chisholm	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Severson, Dan (R)	14A	Sauk Rapids	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Sieben, Katie (DFL)	57A	Newport	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Simon, Steve (DFL)	44A	St. Louis Park	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Simpson, Dean (R)	10B	New York Mills	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Slawik, Nora (DFL)	55B	Maplewood	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Smith, Steve (R)	33A	Mound	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Soderstrom, Judy (R)	08B	Mora	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Solberg, Loren (DFL)	03B	Grand Rapids	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Sviggum, Steve (R)	28B	Kenyon	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Sykora, Barb (R)	33B	Excelsior	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Thao, Cy (DFL)	65A	St. Paul	+	+	+	+	+	-	83%	
Thissen, Paul (DFL)	63A	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	49B	Andover	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Urdahl, Dean (R)	18B	Grove City	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Vandevveer, Ray (R)	52A	Forest Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	62B	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	
Walker, Neva (DFL)	61B	Minneapolis	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	★
Wardlow, Lynn (R)	38B	Eagan	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Welti, Andy (DFL)	30B	Plainview	+	+	+	+	-	+	83%	
Westerberg, Andrew (R)	51A	Blaine	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Westrom, Torrey (R)	11A	Elbow Lake	-	-	-	+	-	+	33%	
Wilkin, Tim (R)	38A	Eagan	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	
Zellers, Kurt (R)	32B	Maple Grove	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%	

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CDF Action Council Announces Legislative Children's Champions

The CDF Action Council is excited to announce 23 Legislative Children's Champions. This is the first year the Action Council has recognized legislators with outstanding voting records for children. Children's Champions are legislators who received 100% on their voting record and signed on to the Children's Health Security Act (SF 20-Prettner Solon; HF 132-Thissen) and/or the Child Care Access bill (SF 1110-Scheid; HF 1329-Slawik). The Children's Health Security Act would provide health care coverage for all Minnesota children and the Child Care Access bill would restore some of the 2003 cuts to the Child Care Assistance program.

Call your legislators who are Children's Champions and thank them for standing up on behalf of children.

If your senator or representative is not a Children's Champion, call and ask him or her to vote for policies that support children and encourage him or her to sign on to the Children's Health Security Act and/or the Child Care Access bill.

2005 Legislative Children's Champions

LAWMAKER	Children's Health Security Act	Child Care Access Bill
Sen. Linda Berglin	✓	
Sen. John Hottinger	✓	✓
Sen. Sandra Pappas		✓
Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon*	✓	
Rep. Connie Bernardy		✓
Rep. Karen Clark		✓
Rep. Jim Davnie	✓	
Rep. Mindy Greiling	✓	✓
Rep. Alice Hausman	✓	
Rep. Frank Hornstein	✓	
Rep. Melissa Hortman	✓	✓
Rep. Ruth Johnson	✓	
Rep. Sheldon Johnson		✓
Rep. Margaret Kelliher Anderson	✓	✓
Rep. Tina Liebling	✓	✓
Rep. Diane Loeffler	✓	
Rep. Aaron Peterson		✓
Rep. Maria Ruud	✓	✓
Rep. Katie Sieben		✓
Rep. Steve Simon		✓
Rep. Nora Slawik**	✓	✓
Rep. Paul Thissen*	✓	✓
Rep. Neva Walker		✓

*Chief Children's Health Security Act author

**Chief Child Care Access Bill author

Key 2004 Children's Votes in the U.S. Senate

Gun Liability—Gun Safety Devices

(S. 1805, Senate Roll Call Vote 17)

Adopted by a vote of 70-27 (R 25-25; D 44-2; I 1-0) on February 2, 2004

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2620, offered by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), would prohibit the sale or transfer of handguns by a licensed manufacturer, importer or dealer unless a secure gun storage or safety device is provided for each handgun. It would exempt gun transfers to U.S. or state government agencies and law enforcement officials. It would provide civil liability exemptions for individuals who legally possess a handgun and use a secure gun storage or safety device. It would also impose penalties of up to \$2,500 and license suspension or revocation for manufacturers, dealers or importers who sell a handgun without such locking devices.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. Such a requirement would do nothing to impede gun ownership or usage, but could save the lives of hundreds of children every year.

Gun Liability—Assault Weapons Ban

(S. 1805, Senate Roll Call Vote 24)

Adopted by a vote of 52-47 (R 10-41; D 41-6; I 1-0) on March 2, 2004

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2637, offered by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), would provide for a 10-year reauthorization of the Assault Weapons Ban, which expired on September 13, 2004.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This amendment renewed the 10-year federal Assault Weapons Ban—a policy supported by two-thirds of Americans and virtually every major law enforcement organization.



Gun Liability—Gun Show Background Checks

(S. 1805, Senate Roll Call Vote 25)

Adopted by a vote of 53-46 (R 8-43; D 44-3; I 1-0) on March 2, 2004

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2636, offered by Senator John McCain (R-AZ), would require criminal background checks on all firearm transactions at gun shows where at least 75 guns are sold. Exemptions would be provided for dealers selling guns from their homes as well as members only gun swaps and meets conducted by nonprofit hunting clubs.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. Background checks are not currently required at gun shows where an estimated 40 percent of all gun sales take place. Anyone barred from purchasing guns by the federal Brady law, e.g. criminals and those adjudged mentally incompetent, can easily circumvent such background checks by purchasing guns at private gun shows.

Gun Liability—Passage

(S. 1805, Senate Roll Call Vote 30)

Rejected by a vote of 8-90 (R 3-48; D 5-41; I 0-1) on March 2, 2004

Vote Description: The bill would bar certain civil lawsuits against manufacturers, distributors, trade groups, dealers, and importers of firearms and ammunition. The lawsuits that would be prohibited are principally those aimed at holding the gun industry liable for gun violence. The bill would also require the dismissal of pending lawsuits against the gun industry, except for those involving a defect in a weapon or ammunition.

CDF Action Council Position: No. Federal immunity would give manufacturers and sellers special protection that is not afforded to any other industry and would halt progress toward gun safety and greater gun industry accountability.

Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution— Education Funding

(S Con Res 95, Senate Roll Call Vote 35)

*Rejected by a vote of 46-52 (R 0-51; D 45-1; I 1-0) on
March 10, 2004*

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2719, offered by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), would create a reserve fund that would allow an increase of up to \$8.6 billion in education programs. It also would increase the amount dedicated for deficit reduction by \$8.6 billion. The spending would be offset by revenue increases.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. The Murray amendment would have allowed for full funding of the No Child Left Behind Act, which provides key support to schools educating the nation's most disadvantaged students.

Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution— Reconciliation Instruction Removal

(S Con Res 95, Senate Roll Call Vote 36)

*Rejected by a vote of 47-52 (R 1-50; D 45-2; I 1-0) on
March 10, 2004*

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2735, offered by Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), would strike reconciliation instructions from the budget resolution so that the cost of extending the expiring \$1,000 child tax credit, continuing the 10 percent income tax bracket at present income levels, and extending relief from the so-called marriage penalty would have to be offset by revenue increases rather than added to the deficit.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. Support for this amendment was a vote to impose discipline on a Congressional process that has facilitated the passage of unpaid-for tax cuts that are adding to the national debt that our children will have to pay and constricting the ability to fund the essential services and programs to educate our children, keep them healthy, and set them on a path of growth and opportunity.



Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution—PAYGO Rules

(S Con Res 95, Senate Roll Call Vote 38)

*Adopted by a vote of 51-48 (R 4-47; D 46-1; I 1-0) on
March 10, 2004*

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2748, offered by Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI), would restore pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules, which would create a 60-vote point of order, on any spending or revenue legislation that would increase the deficit. Tax cuts and new entitlement spending would have to be offset with revenue increases or spending cuts or garner 60 votes in the Senate.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. The amendment would require that tax cuts be paid for or garner 60 votes in the Senate if the tax cuts were not paid for and would be added to the national debt that our children will have to pay.

Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution— Reconciliation Instructions

(S Con Res 95, Senate Roll Call Vote 39)

*Adopted by a vote of 53-43 (R 8-42; D 44-1; I 1-0) on
March 10, 2004*

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2751, offered by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), would strike reconciliation instructions that direct the Finance Committee to achieve \$14 billion in mandatory spending reductions through cuts to Medicaid and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds for low-income families.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. The amendment protected health care for children and prevented a tax increase on the lowest income families receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Approximately 25 million children receive their health care through the Medicaid program. There are 17 million families with children who receive the EITC and nearly 5 million individuals, including 2.7 million children, are lifted out of poverty by the EITC.

Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution—Adoption

(S Con Res 95, Senate Roll Call Vote 58)

*Adopted by a vote of 51-45 (R 50-1; D 1-43; I 0-1) on
March 12, 2004*

Vote Description: Passage of the resolution to adopt a five-year budget plan that would limit fiscal 2005 discretionary spending to \$821 billion, protect an unpaid-for \$80.6 billion five-year tax cut package, and require that any additional tax cuts or new entitlement spending be offset with revenue increases or entitlement cuts.

CDF Action Council Position: No. The budget resolution would have imposed significant cuts on health, education, child care, and other programs to meet children's needs for years to come. Overall, domestic program funding would have been cut by more than \$100 billion over five years.

Welfare Reauthorization—Child Care Funding

(H.R. 4, Senate Roll Call Vote 64)

Adopted by a vote of 78-20 (R 31-19; D 46-1; I 1-0) on March 30, 2004

Vote Description: Amendment no. 2937, offered by Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), would increase mandatory child care funding by \$6 billion over the next five years. The spending would be offset by extending expiring customs user fees.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. Over the last several years, federal funding for child care has been essentially flat, and as a result states have been cutting child care assistance for working families.

Senate Vote 93 IDEA Reauthorization—IDEA Funding

(S. 1248)

Motion rejected by a vote of 56-41 (R 10-40; D 45-1; I 1-0) on May 12, 2004. Note: A three-fifths majority (60) of the total Senate is required to waive the Budget Act. Subsequently, the chair upheld the point of order, and the amendment fell.

Vote Description: Motion by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) to waive the Budget Act on Amendment 3144 to increase mandatory funding by \$2.2 billion annually over the next six years to provide for full federal funding by 2010 of 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditures for certain programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. The Harkin amendment would have ensured mandatory full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act State Grants program.

Corporate Tax Overhaul—Conference Report

(H.R. 4520, Senate Roll Call Vote 211)

Adopted (thus cleared for the President) by a vote of 69-17 (R 43-3; D 25-14; I 1-0) on October 11, 2004.

Vote Description: Passage of the conference report on the bill that would repeal an export provision in the U.S. tax code that has been ruled an unfair subsidy by the



World Trade Organization, and would provide for \$137 billion in new tax cuts for corporations over 10 years. It also includes a \$10 billion buyout of tobacco farmers. The cost of the tax breaks would be partially offset by curbs on tax-avoidance practices.

CDF Action Council Position: No. Initiated to address a \$5 billion-a-year export subsidy prohibited under international trade agreements, this bill provided tax breaks for some of America's largest and most profitable corporations at a time when corporate tax payments are approaching their all-time low as a percentage of the nation's gross domestic product. Instead, funding for these tax breaks could have been used to pay for health care, child care, Head Start and other services that help children stay healthy and succeed.

The Act to Leave No Child Behind

(S. 448), introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT)

Bill Description: The Act to Leave No Child Behind (S. 448) is comprehensive legislation incorporating a national policy vision for America's children. The Act contains 12 titles drawn from proven and effective policies and programs, many in other bills introduced by Republicans and Democrats. It would, among other things, provide health coverage to all uninsured children in America; offer full funding for child care and Head Start, so that all eligible children who need these benefits could participate; ensure that working parents have the supports they need to remain employed and lift themselves and their children out of poverty; make sure that more children are in safe, nurturing, and permanent families; and strengthen youth development, juvenile justice, and violence prevention efforts.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. Co-sponsorship of S. 448 is an important action that Senators can take to demonstrate their commitment to children.

Key 2004 Children's Votes in the U.S. House of Representatives

Community Service Grants—Unemployment Benefits (H.R. 3030, House Roll Call Vote 18)

Adopted by a vote of 227-179 (R 39-179; D 187-0; I 1-0) on February 4, 2004

Vote Description: The amendment, offered by Rep. George Miller (D-CA), would authorize funds under the Community Service Block Grants (CSBG) program to provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits for people who have exhausted their state jobless benefits.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. The bill would have made grants available to states to provide financial and employment support to individuals who could not find employment, who had exhausted their state unemployment benefits, and who, after the week of December 20, 2003, could no longer receive federal extended temporary unemployment compensation.

Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution—Motion to Instruct

(S Con Res 95, House Roll Call Vote 97)

Motion rejected by a vote of 209-209 (R 11-209; D 197-0; I 1-0) on March 30, 2004

Vote Description: A motion by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) to instruct House conferees to accept provisions in the Senate version of the budget resolution that would subject any tax cut or mandatory spending expansion to either a pay-as-you-go offset or a 60-vote point of order in the Senate.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This amendment imposed discipline on a Congressional process that has facilitated the passage of unpaid-for tax cuts that are adding to the national debt our children will have to pay and constricting the ability of the nation to fund essential services and programs that help educate our children, keep them healthy, and set them on a path of growth and opportunity.



Health Plans for Small Businesses—Passage

(H.R. 4281, House Roll Call Vote 174)

Passed by a vote of 252-162 (R 215-0; D 37-161; I 0-1) on May 13, 2004

Vote Description: Passage of the bill would allow businesses to join together to purchase insurance with fewer benefits than allowed under state insurance requirements.

CDF Action Council Position: No. The bill would preempt state insurance regulations to allow interstate banding of employers to purchase bare-bones health insurance coverage. Pregnant women and children stand to lose such state guaranteed insurance benefits as maternity care, well child care, and mental health care. In addition, certain groups of children are provided protected status under

state insurance regulations, such as adopted children, dependent students, handicapped dependents, and newborns. This bill could result in these children losing the protections of state insurance laws and regulations.

Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution—Conference Report

(S Con Res 95, House Roll Call Vote 198)

Adopted (thus sent to the Senate) by a vote of 216-213 (R 216-9; D 0-203; I 0-1) on May 19, 2004

Vote Description: Adoption of the conference report on the concurrent resolution that would set broad spending and revenue targets for fiscal 2005, including \$821.4 billion in discretionary spending and an additional \$50 billion for operations in Iraq. It would apply pay-as-you-go rules to both spending and tax cuts until April 15, 2005, while exempting \$27.5 billion in tax cuts that would be included in a reconciliation bill.

CDF Action Council Position: No. The report did not require that \$27.5 billion in tax cuts be paid for rather than added to the national debt our children will have to pay. The resolution also included spending levels that provided no room for increases for domestic priorities such as education, child care, juvenile justice, health care, child nutrition, and programs essential to giving children the opportunity to grow, learn, and enjoy opportunities for a better future.

Child Tax Credit—Passage

(H.R. 4359, House Roll Call Vote 209)

Passed by a vote of 271-139 (R 213-3; D 58-135; I 0-1) on May 20, 2004

Vote Description: Passage of the bill that would permanently extend the \$1,000 per child tax credit that is scheduled to revert to \$700 per child in 2005. It would increase the amount of income a taxpayer may earn before the credit begins to phase out from \$75,000 to \$125,000 for

single individuals and from \$110,000 to \$250,000 for married couples.

CDF Action Council Position: No. The extension of the child tax credit added tax breaks for wealthier families by expanding the child tax credit availability to married couples with incomes as high as \$300,000 at a cost of \$69 billion over 10 years. At the same time, low-income families who earn less than \$11,000 in 2005 will not receive any portion of the child tax credit because Congress enacted indexing of the income threshold for eligibility, raising it from \$10,000 and reaching \$11,000 in 2005. This tax increase on low-income families means that a family with a full-time minimum wage-earning parent will receive no benefit from the child tax credit because their income of \$10,300 falls short of the indexed income eligibility threshold of \$11,000. Simply restoring the \$10,000 income eligibility threshold for the child tax credit would help 9.2 million children in 4.3 million families gain an increased portion of the credit. This restoration would cost only \$6.9 billion.

Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution Revision—Adoption

(H Res 685, House Roll Call Vote 301)

Rejected by a vote of 184-230 (R 2-217; D 181-13; I 1-0) on June 24, 2004

Vote Description: Adoption of a resolution offered by Rep. David Obey (D-WI) to provide \$14.2 billion in additional funds for education, homeland security, veterans, health and other programs in the FY 2005 budget resolution. The increased spending would be offset by reducing or eliminating \$18.9 billion in tax cuts for couples with incomes of more than \$1 million. The remaining \$4.7 billion would be used for deficit reduction.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. This provision would have made additional funding available for critical children's programs by repealing tax breaks for the wealthy.

Budget Enforcement—Entitlement Caps

(H.R. 4663, House Roll Call Vote 308)

Rejected by a vote of 96-317 (R 96-120; D 0-196; I 0-1) on June 24, 2004

Vote Description: Amendment by Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) to limit annual spending increases for entitlement programs other than Social Security to the growth of inflation plus the increase in the number of eligible beneficiaries.

CDF Action Council Position: No. This amendment would cap critical children's entitlement programs at a level substantially below the cost of maintaining current services. As a result, entitlement programs would have to be cut to reduce costs to the level of the cap. Over ten years, \$1.55 trillion would have to be cut from programs such as Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), child nutrition programs, Food Stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and numerous other programs.

Budget Enforcement—Democratic Substitute

(H.R. 4663, House Roll Call Vote 314)

Rejected by a vote of 179-233 (R 3-214; D 175-19; I 1-0) on June 24, 2004

Vote Description: A substitute amendment by Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) that would restore pay-as-you go rules for new tax cuts and mandatory spending increases through Sept. 30, 2009. It also would set discretionary spending caps of \$832.5 billion in fiscal 2005 and \$856.9 billion in fiscal 2006.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. The amendment would require that tax cuts be paid-for rather than simply being added to the national debt that our children will have to pay. The amendment, while providing that increases in mandatory spending would have to be paid for, would not impose caps or force cuts in entitlement programs responsible for children's health, nutrition and welfare.

Budget Enforcement—Kirk Substitute

(H.R. 4663, House Roll Call Vote 316)

Rejected by a vote of 120-296 (R 120-100; D 0-195; I 0-1) on June 24, 2004

Vote Description: Substitute amendment by Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) that would restore pay-as-you go offset requirements for mandatory spending increases for fiscal 2005, 2006 and 2007 and place a cap on entitlement spending (with the exceptions of Social Security and Medicare) that would require automatic cuts in entitlement spending in any year in which spending exceeds the cap.

CDF Action Council Position: No. This amendment would require that improvements to entitlement programs, such as the Medicaid program, be paid for with cuts to entitlement programs and would not allow these improvements to be paid for by raising revenue. At the same time, the amendment would allow for new tax cuts that are not paid for and that would be added to the national debt that our children will have to pay. The amendment would also have imposed caps on entitlement spending that would have forced cuts that are projected to have taken \$445 billion from such programs as Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), child nutrition programs, Food Stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit.

Budget Enforcement—Passage

(H.R. 4663, House Roll Call Vote 318)

Rejected by a vote of 146-268 (R 146-72; D 0-195; I 0-1) on June 25, 2004

Vote Description: Passage of the bill would set statutory caps on discretionary spending for fiscal years 2005 and 2006, and institute pay-as-you-go rules that require any mandatory spending increases to be offset.

CDF Action Council Position: No. This bill would have stacked the deck against children by requiring that improvements to entitlement programs such as the Medicaid program be paid for while allowing additional tax breaks for the wealthy to be added to the national debt that our nation's children will have to pay. The bill would also have imposed caps on funding of domestic discretionary programs that would have led to deep cuts in critical supports for children.

District of Columbia Gun Laws—Passage

(H.R. 3193, House Roll Call Vote 477)

Passed by a vote of 250-171 (R 198-22; D 52-148; I 0-1) on September 29, 2004

Vote Description: Passage of the bill that would repeal the District of Columbia's laws that prohibit the sale and possession of handguns, handgun ammunition and semi-automatic weapons not banned by federal law. It would eliminate the District's firearm registration program and supersede the portion of city code that requires weapons to be kept unloaded and disassembled, or with the trigger locked. It would limit the possession of weapons to residents' homes and property, and prohibit any firearm from being carried on District streets. It also would remove the District's authority to enact laws or regulations that discourage or eliminate the private ownership or use of firearms.



CDF Action Council Position: No. Repealing the District of Columbia's gun safety laws, including the 28-year-old ban on handguns, the prohibition of assault weapons, and registration requirements for rifles and shotguns, would put more children at risk of gun violence in a city where 21 children died of gun violence in 2004.

Corporate Tax Overhaul—Conference Report

(H.R. 4520, House Roll Call Vote 509)

Adopted (thus sent to the Senate) by a vote of 280-141 (R 207-16; D 73-124; I 0-1) on October 7, 2004

Vote Description: Passage of the conference report on the bill that would repeal an export provision in the U.S. tax code that has been ruled an unfair subsidy by the World Trade Organization, and would provide for \$137 billion in new tax cuts for corporations over 10 years. It also includes a \$10 billion buyout of tobacco farmers. The

cost of the tax breaks would be offset by curbs on tax-avoidance practices.

CDF Action Council Position: No. Initiated to address a \$5 billion-a-year export subsidy prohibited under international trade agreements, this bill provided tax breaks for some of America's largest and most profitable corporations at a time when corporate tax payments are approaching their all-time low as a percentage of the nation's gross domestic product. Instead, funding for these tax breaks could have been used to pay for health care, child care, Head Start and other services that help children stay healthy and succeed.

The Act to Leave No Child Behind

(H.R. 936), introduced by Representative George Miller (D-CA)

Bill Description: The Act to Leave No Child Behind (H.R.936) is comprehensive legislation incorporating a national policy vision for America's children. The Act contains 12 titles drawn from proven and effective policies and programs, many in other bills introduced by Republicans and Democrats. It would, among other things, provide health coverage to all uninsured children in America; offer full funding for child care and Head Start, so that all eligible children who need these benefits could participate; ensure that working parents have the supports they need to remain employed and be able to lift themselves and their children out of poverty; make sure that more children are in safe, nurturing, and permanent families; and strengthen youth development, juvenile justice, and violence prevention efforts.

CDF Action Council Position: Yes. Co-sponsorship of H.R.936 is an important action that Representatives can take to demonstrate their commitment to children.

U.S. Senate Scorecard, 2004

Roll Call CDF Action Council Vote Number Position	S17 Yea	S24 Yea	S25 Yea	S30 Nay	S35 Yea	S36 Yea	S38 Yea	S39 Yea	S58 Nay	S64 Yea	S93 Yea	S211 Nay	CO-Sponsor S.448/H.R. 936 Yea	SCORE
Sen. Norm Coleman (R)	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	38%
Sen. Mark Dayton (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	92%

U.S. House of Representatives Scorecard, 2004

Roll Call CDF Action Council Vote Number Position	H18 Yea	H97 Yea	H174 Nay	H198 Nay	H209 Nay	H301 Yea	H308 Nay	H314 Yea	H316 Nay	H318 Nay	H477 Nay	H509 Nay	CO-Sponsor S.448/ H.R. 936 Yea	SCORE
Rep. Gil Gutknecht (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Rep. Mark R. Kennedy (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Rep. John Kline (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Rep. Betty McCollum (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	92%
Rep. Jim L. Oberstar (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	85%
Rep. Collin C. Peterson (D)	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	46%
Rep. Jim Ramstad (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	23%
Rep. Martin Olav Sabo (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	92%

Key: “+” means the member voted with the CDF Action Council position; “-” means the member voted against the CDF Action Council position.

State average: 47%

State rank: 22



Be a Voice for Children!

Call on Your Members of Congress to Support Children's Needs

- Over 13 million children in the United States live in poverty (the federal poverty level for a family of four is \$19,350)
- The number of children living in poverty increased by 12.8% between 2000 and 2004
- Over 9 million children in America do not have health insurance
- Research consistently shows that quality child care has a lasting impact on children's ability to learn and succeed in life. Yet only 1 in 7 eligible children receive child care assistance while federal child care funding has remained flat since 2002.

Stand for Justice for Children & the Poor!

The toll-free number is provided courtesy of the Children's Defense Fund Action Council. For more information, call (866)-274-9654, or visit www.childrensdefense.org and find out how you can join the Children's Defense Fund's Campaign to Stand for Justice for Children and the Poor.

Make Your Voice Heard!

Call your Members of Congress

Toll-Free: (888) CDF-1221 to reach the Congressional Switchboard

Tell your Members of Congress:

1. Invest in children, the future of our nation!
2. Stop providing tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans while our most vulnerable children suffer.
3. Protect funding for Medicaid, child care, food stamps, Head Start and other programs that help vulnerable children and families.

Be a Voice for Minnesota's Children!

Call on Your State Lawmakers to Support Children's Needs

- Nearly 144,000 children in Minnesota live in poverty (the federal poverty level for a family of four is \$19,350)
- Over 70,000 children in Minnesota do not have health insurance
- Minnesota's child care assistance eligibility level dropped from 5th in the nation in 2003 to 40th in 2005
- Research consistently shows that quality child care has a lasting impact on children's ability to learn and succeed in life. Yet cuts of more than \$75 million during the 2005 session to child care assistance bring the total child care cuts to more than \$200 million over the past three years.

Stand for Justice for Children & the Poor!

For more information, contact Carole Spektor at (651) 855-1188 or spektor@cdf-mn.org. Or, visit www.cdf-mn.org.



Make Your Voice Heard!

Call your State Senator and Representative

House Information (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550

Senate Information (651) 296-0504 or (800) 234-1112.

Tell Your State Lawmakers:

1. Invest in Minnesota's children; they are the future of our state!
2. Restore child care funding to provide access to quality early care and education for all Minnesota children.
3. Ensure all Minnesota children have health care coverage—sign on to the Children's Health Security Act (SF 20- Prettner Solon; HF 132-Thissen).

The Child Defender

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Children's Defense Fund Action Council

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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.



**When it's budget-cutting
time, children can't stand
up for themselves.
Make sure those
who represent you
stand up for them.**