



March 12, 2009

Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight Committee  
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Chairman Thissen and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits is the statewide association of nonprofits, with nearly 2,000 member organizations from across the state. We are deeply committed to ensuring that all Minnesotans have the opportunity to succeed.

In a year in which Minnesota faces significant and difficult budget challenges, all proposed legislation should be able to demonstrate that it is necessary, that it spends resources smartly and that it helps Minnesota maintain a high quality of life. It should also help an increasing number of residents weather the economic downturn.

House Files 272, 646, and 1036 do not meet these tests. They propose millions of dollars in new spending to solve a problem that no credible evidence supports. The bills create new mandates on local government and create unnecessary hurdles to getting assistance out to eligible Minnesotans in crisis. Requiring fingerprinting of the elderly, children, the disabled and the jobless only adds insult to the injury that this economy is inflicting on increasing numbers of Minnesotans. Likewise, these bills invite expensive legal challenges that the state cannot afford

Now, when the call is out for more effective and efficient model of services, these bills would introduce new unfunded mandates and time-consuming steps in already cumbersome eligibility processes. This bill creates hurdles and solves no proven problem. For these reasons, we ask you to oppose HF 272, 646, and 1036.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Pratt  
Executive Director

  
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Public Policy Director

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