

May 3, 2011

Sen. Michelle Benson  
Sen. David Hann  
Sen. Gretchen Hoffman  
Sen. Scott Newman  
Sen. Sean Nienow

Rep. Jim Abeler  
Rep. Steve Gottwalt  
Rep. Tom Huntley  
Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer  
Rep. Kathy Lohmer

Honorable Health and Human Services Conferees:

Understanding that you face many difficult decisions, the Citizens League believes that a key direction in policy to support prosperity should be funded this year. The Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) program is Minnesota's most functional and successful form of conditional cash transfer.

As part of our Pathways to Prosperity Project, the Citizens League has found that conditional cash transfers are a key way to directly support productive decision-making by low-wealth families. We need to develop and expand this approach as part of a key series of actions designed to support prosperity rather than react to poverty.

At \$500,000 per biennium, we should not throw away an emerging policy direction that encourages savings, promotes financial literacy and directly supports activities that we know are good for family independence and society as a whole: owning a home, pursuing a degree, or starting a business.

In addition, FAIM has a presence statewide and is an effective approach in all our communities.

The Citizens League recommends that you double the appropriation and take full advantage of the federal match, but we understand that you face many difficult decisions.

We respectfully request that you continue to fund the FAIM program.

Sincerely,

Bob DeBoer  
Director of Policy Development

Cc: Gov. Mark Dayton  
Lt. Gov. Yvonne Prettner Solon  
Commissioner Lucinda Jesson



*Common ground. Common good*

555 N. Wabasha St., Suite 240  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
Phone: (651) 293-0575  
Fax: (651) 293-0576  
Email: [info@citizensleague.org](mailto:info@citizensleague.org)  
Web: [www.citizensleague.org](http://www.citizensleague.org)

**2011 Board of Directors**

Brian Bell  
Duane Benson  
Laura Bishop  
Judy Blaseg  
Emmett Coleman  
Claudia Dengler  
Ward Einess  
Michele Engdahl  
Rondi Erickson  
Jennifer Ford Reedy  
Jennifer Godinez  
Kevin Goodno  
Peggy Gunn  
Tess Hohman  
Bob Josephson  
Acooa Lee  
Kathy Mock  
Jeff Peterson  
Zach Pettus  
Nena Street  
Tom Teigen  
Diane Tran  
Donna Zimmerman, *Chair*

Sean Kershaw, *Executive Director*