Preparing the 21st Century Workforce
2014 Legislation

Unleashing Opportunities for Workers and Families

1. Good for Education

- **Maternal education means better school performance for children** — In 2005, 37% of children between ages 3-5 whose mothers had a bachelor’s degree could recognize all letters, compared to 19% of the children of high school graduates (NCES, After School Programs and Activities Survey of the 2005 National Household Education Survey.)

- **Increased education leads to increased earnings** — Between 1975 and 2005, wages for those with college and advanced degrees rose by 22% and 29%. Wages for high school graduates stagnated and those without high school degrees fell by 16% (Baum & Ma, “Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society,” 2007)

2. Good for Employers

- **Two-thirds of employers can’t find qualified job applicants** (Mckinsey Global Institute, “An economy that works: Job Creation American’s Future, June 2011) — Minnesota businesses have a greater need for skilled workers than those in any other state. Additionally, today’s workers will still make up nearly 3/4 of Minnesota’s workforce in 2030, so it is vital that we strengthen our current workforce. (Carnevale, Smith & Strohl, “Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2013,” June 2010)

- **70% of jobs will require some post-secondary education by 2018** — Nearly two million working-age Minnesotans lack a credential beyond a high school diploma. (Carnevale, Smith & Strohl, “Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2013,” June 2010)

3. Good for the Economy

- **Regions with higher levels of education have more productivity growth** (Robert J. Gordon, National Bureau of Economic Research, June 2000)

- **Addresses the racial job gap** — 39% of the MFIP population are African American and the unemployment rate among African American Minnesotans is more than three times higher than that for white Minnesotans (Mn Dept of Human Services, 2011)

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Prosperity for All is a statewide alliance of organizations working toward a more prosperous Minnesota.

*Minnesota Family Investment Program, or “Welfare-to-Work” plan*
What does this bill accomplish?

1. Allows the freedom to access Adult Basic Education

   ⇒ Problem:
   
   • 37% of adults on MFIP* lack a high school diploma or GED (MN Dept. of Human Services, 2011)
   
   • The high school achievement gap leads to employment disparities; the Twin Cities metro has the country’s largest employment disparity (Economic Policy Institute, July 2012)

   ⇒ Solution: Allows MFIP participants to earn GED/diploma as an approved work activity

2. Removes roadblocks to post-secondary education

   ⇒ Problem:
   
   • State policy discourages moms and dads from accessing educational opportunities
   
   • 70% of Minnesotan jobs will require some education beyond high school by 2018 (Carnevale, Smith & Strahi, “Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2013,” June 2010)
   
   • Only 1.4% of adults on MFIP have a college degree (MN Dept. of Human Services, 2011)

   ⇒ Solution: Allows MFIP participants to be enrolled in 4 year post-secondary education programs and requires providers to inform every MFIP participant with a GED/diploma about their right to enroll in post-secondary education as an approved work activity

3. Removes outdated barriers that limit self-sufficiency

   ⇒ Problem:
   
   • Nearly 70,000 Minnesotans turn to public assistance when they lose a job (MN Dept. of Human Services, 2013)
   
   • Between 1979 and 2005, wages for those with college and advanced degrees rose 22% and 29%, while wages for high school graduates stagnated and those without high school degrees fell by 16% (Baum & Ma, “Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society,” 2007)

   ⇒ Solution: Gives new graduates the flexibility to job search for 12 weeks rather than 6 and removes barriers to ESL classes for workers who are learning English

*Minnesota Family Investment Program, or “Welfare-to-Work” plan