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\(^i\)

- **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%\(^ii\)

2. Good for Employers

- **2/3 of employers can’t find qualified job applicants**\(^iii\) — 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\(^iv\)

- **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\(^v\)

3. Good for the Economy

- **Regions with higher levels of education have more productivity growth**\(^vi\)

- **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\(^vii\)

---

\(^i\) NCES, After-School Programs and Activities Survey of the 2005 National Household Education Survey
\(^iii\) Mckinsey Global Institute, “An economy that works: Job Creation American’s Future, June 2011
\(^vi\) Robert J. Gordon, National Bureau of Economic Research, June 2000
\(^vii\) Mn Dept of Human Services, 2011
What does the MFIP Workforce Education Bill accomplish?

1. Allows the freedom to access Adult Basic Education
   ➡ Problem:
   • 37% of adults on MFIP* lack a high school diploma or GEDviii
   • The high school achievement gap leads to employment disparities; the Twin Cities metro has the country’s largest employment disparityix
   ➡ 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 2018x
   • Only 1.4% of adults on MFIP have a college degreexi
   ➡ 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 jobxii
   • 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%xiii
   ➡ 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

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

“...will position us well in the decades to come.”

MN State Demographic Center 2013

viii MN Dept. of Human Services, 2011
ix Economic Policy Institute, July 2012
xi MN Dept. of Human Services, 2011
xii MN Dept. of Human Services, 2013

Contact:
Jessica Webster, JLWebster@mnlisa.org
Katherine Wagoner, Katherine@mnhomelesscoalition.org
www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/prosperity-for-all