



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

Ask Governor Pawlenty to continue “stepping stone” jobs!

May 9, 2008

Background:

Stepping stone jobs – time-limited jobs that build skills, resumes and references – are one of the most successful ways to help parents with employment barriers work their way into the competitive labor market and leave welfare. Last year Minnesota built a system of these jobs throughout the state – in local businesses, in community non-profits and in local government agencies. The legislature proposes spending less than 1% of the funds in the welfare-to-work account to continue and expand this network of jobs.

We hope that you will urge the Governor to support this proposal.

To date a proposal that would help low-wage working parents pay for transportation has been dropped from the budget. The Governor’s budget proposals would use every dollar in the welfare-to-work reserve account to plug holes in the state budget – leaving none of those dollars to help people get and keep jobs in a weakening labor market.

Minnesota can afford to spend at least a little less than 1% of the dedicated welfare-to-work funds on efforts that are proven to help people get and keep jobs. In the last ten years, the state has used \$300 million of welfare-to-work funds to cover holes in the state budget. In the process, we have weakened the welfare to work program and seen more children in poverty and more children in deep poverty. An economic downturn is the time to deploy, not deplete, the funds dedicated to helping Minnesotans get and keep jobs.

Recommended Action:

Please call Governor Pawlenty and have your voice heard on the Governor’s budget proposal.

Message: Please support the proposed funding for paid work experience so that parents can move into jobs that take them off welfare. Now is not the time to take more jobs out of our economy.

Governor Tim Pawlenty’s Office:

Telephone: 651-296-3391

E-mail: tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us