



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: February 23, 2021

Subject: Resolution of Support – SF 1044/HF 1034

Councilmember Dircks requested that a resolution be presented to the City Council expressing the City's support for SF 1044/HF 1034. This bill, before the Legislature, would extend eligibility for unemployment benefits to secondary (high school) students.

Many low-income households rely on their high school aged children to take on part-time jobs to help their family make ends meet. With the start of the pandemic, youth unemployment has skyrocketed, creating a financial hardship for these families. A 1939 State Law prohibits high school students from being eligible for unemployment benefits. While the MN Court of Appeals recently ruled that young workers are eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, young workers who are in high school still do not qualify for state unemployment benefits.

The bill is bipartisan, with supporters on both sides of the aisle.

Councilmember Dircks will speak more on this matter at the City Council meeting.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.

