March 8, 2018

**RE: HF2780 Modification of Background Studies for Child Care**

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

I am speaking in favor of the proposed bill that would modify the process and standards for Background Checks for Family Child Care Providers.

I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 20 years and have been involved with many aspects of the development on these and other legislative actions. I have been in attendance at virtually all of the DHS stakeholder meetings.

This bill is a comprehensive modification to background studies for Family Child Care which will allow providers to comply with implemented law and maintain our businesses.

**Minor Children:** We are family child care providers and hence our own children are a piece of the puzzle in our license. They do not need to be subjected to all adult standards just because they live in our homes. We as providers do need to abide by standards which provider for safe care for the clients in our care.

* This bill gives providers an option to have their children processed through the fingerprint check or the current county process give appropriate flexibility to the state, county and providers to modify background checks for the children living in our homes.
* We therefor maintain the integrity of our personal lives in conjunction with the standard of keeping kids safe.

**Fingerprint Data Notification:** Currently it is unclear what happens with our fingerprint data.

* This wording guarantees clear communication and standards for the handling and storage of our data.
* This is a standard that providers should be able to have clearly stated and trust.

**Unified Background Studies:** County specific background studies cause frustration and limitations, not to mention expense and restrictions for providers.

* There are many situations where a provider has a substitute, teacher or helper who is providing these services to multiple providers in multiple counties.
* Having to re-do any background check costs each provider both expense and time limiting their resources.
* The timeline proposed for implementation appears appropriate for DHS to accomplish and providers to implement in our settings.

Again, I support this bill in its entirety and ask you to approve its implementation.

Thank you for your time, effort and consideration of my perspective on this topic.

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