



March 15, 2023

Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
200 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is writing in support of HF 2565, to fully fund early childhood programs and support the workforce responsible for the growth and learning of Minnesota's youngest children. The PN-3 Coalition is excited to see significant investments in Minnesota's youngest children, their families, and their caregivers. We believe robust investment in both families and the early childhood field will positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity

Investing in grants for "Grow Your Own" early childhood educator programs will help stabilize the field by improving recruitment, education and retention strategies to equitably support those providing critical care and education to Minnesota's youngest learners. Increased funding for early learning scholarships empowers parents and caregivers to decide what is best for their family's unique situation and bridges the funding gaps for low-income families to access quality early education and care programs and to improve school readiness in populations with the highest needs.

This investment in families and the early childhood workforce will help families in Minnesota access a holistic, full-service care continuum that supports their children from birth through their most critical developmental years. Please join us in supporting HF 2565 to improve the effectiveness of existing services to improve the outcomes of all families regardless of race, zip code or income.

Thank you,

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Funds-MN,
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator