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FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Dave Pinto  
State Representative

Mr. Chair and Committee Members,

I write today on behalf of the Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs to share our strong support for HF 1125, Pryor, that creates refundable tax credits for qualified childcare professionals.

Tax credits for child care professionals would be a great benefit for our team members who have invested in themselves and want to invest in the children and families we serve. Unfortunately child care workers make terribly low wages relative to the important work they provide. We have a workforce shortage in part due to the low wages and this bill may help keep these workers in the business of providing care.

To be a Parent Aware center requires a lot of training and at a cost. All YMCA child care programs throughout the state are Four Star Parent Aware rated because we believe the families we serve deserve the best education and care we can offer them but turnover in staff challenges our ability to maintain this quality. We too often do not have enough reimbursement for the care we provide to be able to pay staff enough to keep them from taking a better paying job outside this field. Even the fast food industry pays often better than we do for our positions that require a Bachelor's degree.

A tax credit for our child care teachers as proposed by this bill would be one additional incentive to help us retain our employees. Having an extra \$1000-\$3000 each year would boost their income and make a real difference for our staff and our communities.

Sincerely,

David Dominick  
Public Policy Director  
Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs

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