

Minnesota has a childcare shortage, I think that's a fairly well known and accepted fact.

In home childcare and child care centers are both important to our state to assist parents in providing the best quality childcare for our state, parents should have a choice on the type of care they want their child to receive and both can assist in school readiness.

Pathway 1 scholarships are assigned only to parent aware rated child cares, this can include in home or center care and allows choice for parents. This is an approach that is all about the child and the parent's choice for what is best for each individual child and family.

Pathway 2 is what's best for a business and takes away choice, if they are the best choice parents can choose them using pathway 1.

Childcare providers who are willing to go through the steps to be eligible to accept pathway 1 scholarships should have parents who are eligible to receive funds be able to use them at their business.

More funds, not less!!! Should be allotted to scholarships in Pathway 1 to be used where parents choose. In home childcare is often the only choice for parents who work non standard hours, who have children who need more one on one attention and do better in smaller group settings.

Pathway 2 scholarships make it difficult to use the help provided for younger siblings. Pathway 2 supports centers and while we need them if we lose our in home childcares we lose flexibility, family support, responsive care options, it takes away the emotional connections and the family approach at early care for children.

In an in home care situation you typically have the same caregiver with children from an earlier age until school begins (possibly beyond) and you build trust and valuable friendships with a mixed age group. In a center you take away the personal lasting connections to begin a classroom setting at even the earliest age of enrollment. Parents often choose this because there's no personal interactions or possible days off but for some this is not the best care for their child.

Do not take away the choice for parents to choose their own parent aware rated care for their children. Assign more not less funding to follow the child and not the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Kumpf

A 14 year child care provider, mother of 4 and 3 star (soon 4) rated programs through child care aware.

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Good Morning,

I have been a LFCC provider for 5 years now. I have had the opportunity to allow my families to use the Early Learning Scholarship. It is so critical for LFCC to continue to

have families apply for this. LFCC providers were essential during COVID-19 shutdowns. Many of us are qualified to educate so many of these children. Low income families need these scholarships and need LFCC. Many centers don't open soon enough for some children. I had a mom going to work at 530am and I was her only option for care. She worked hard and was a great mom. Having 2 kids on the scholarship also help with her financial when it came to childcare. LFCC have a smaller ratio and more family atmosphere. I have a family with 4 kids but I have just 1. They needed her to get more 1-1 care for her education needs. Because of the scholarship, they are able to send their children someone where they want and can afford.

We can not forget how important LFCC are and to not take this money away from them.

Samantha Isder