



Dear Members of the House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee:

As you begin your consideration of HF 1467, we appreciate the opportunity to share our strong support for this proposal to ensure as many families as possible are able to access the two generation benefits of Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues its disparate impact on Minnesota families, CDF-MN has been focused on making sure none of our working families and their children are left behind in the state response and that as we recover we build on the best changes made during the emergency to create a state where everyone can thrive. Within that framework, **we urge the Committee to recognize the importance of Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance to the economic recovery of our state and families.**

Safe, nurturing, stable care is more important than ever for children from low-income households. **HF 1467 helps counties minimize the number of children that wait on lists, often for years,** for the support their families need to access that kind of care.

HF 1467 also helps counties maximize child care support for the many workers living in low-income households doing essential work in our challenging times: serving as health aides in hospitals and nursing homes, preparing food and stocking shelves for our stores, assuring facilities are adequately cleaned and other key services. 82% of parents on the Basic Sliding Fee waiting list either work in or would move into positions in critical sectors.

CDF-MN is committed to ensuring every Minnesota child has a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. Join us in making sure children and their working parents are not left behind as we continue to build a state where all can thrive with the support of safe, nurturing, stable child care.

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