



April 6, 2021

Re: HF 2230

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

I am writing on behalf of *Transforming Minnesota's Early Childhood Workforce* in support of HF 2230 as amended. It is exciting to see this bill come together and envision how the various elements will help support children, families, educators and Minnesota's economy. We work to improve outcomes for young children by ensuring that Minnesota has a diverse, qualified, well-supported and fairly compensated early childhood workforce. Teachers are the most important component of a high quality learning experience and we focus on supporting the early childhood workforce with the long-term goal of improving outcomes for children. There are some parts of HF 2230 that touch on the early childhood workforce and we wish to specifically call them out and ask for your support as the bill progresses:

- **TEACH** is a scholarship program that helps early educators increase their levels of education, compensation and commitment to the field by earning college credits and degrees. Higher education helps early educators earn higher salaries and more effectively work to prepare young children for school and life. Current TEACH funding is insufficient to support the number of people seeking degrees and so the additional funding in HF 2230 is really critical.
- **REETAIN** is a proven method of encouraging existing early childhood educators to remain in their jobs. Reducing turnover is in the best interests of children and it also helps parents and employers. We currently do not have enough funds to fully support REETAIN and turn away many qualified early educators. We recommend additional funds to support REETAIN.
- The **Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force** is an important next step for truly transforming our broken economic model of early care and education. We see this as a very smart and important next step for Minnesota to take and believe that the Task Force members, with time and support, can build off of the work we have been doing to transform the financing of early care and education and develop specific strategies to build a better system for Minnesota.

Thank you for all you do to support Minnesota's children and families and for your consideration of these issues. Please contact me ([christa@ecworkforcemn.org/612-920-0574](mailto:christa@ecworkforcemn.org/612-920-0574)) if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christa Anders".

Christa Anders, Coordinator