



Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Health and Human Services Finance & Policy Committee
503 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 5, 2021

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Start Early Funders Coalition, we express our support for the HF 2330 to support a broad package of funding to support early childhood care and education. Our vision is that every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success.

HF 2330 demonstrates the great need facing our state to care for and educate our youngest Minnesotans. We know that investment into critical early care and education programs is necessary to stabilize our families and our economy. Both CCAP and Early Learning Scholarships provide greater access to quality care for our Black, Indigenous and children of color and their families that have been historically left behind. Increased investments, including increasing CCAP to the 50th percentile, and additional funding for early learning scholarships will stabilize our provider workforce at time when all, especially rural Minnesotans, are struggling to find care for their children. We must ensure all children birth to kindergarten, from low-income families, have access to these programs. We are pleased to see supports for ongoing payments to childcare providers, support for Family, Friend and Neighbor providers and initiatives like KEP and TEACH funded in this bill; these initiatives recognize that there is no one solution to our early childhood system and a range of proposals are needed.

Our Coalition supports a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to a continuum of high-quality early care and education programs. We must maintain and continue to grow investments in critical early care and education programs!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carrie Zelin Johnson".

Carrie Zelin Johnson
Start Early Funders Coalition Coordinator
Start Early Funders Coalition

The Start Early Funders Coalition for Children and Minnesota's Future is a collaboration of more than 15 members of Minnesota's philanthropic community. The Coalition provides critical leadership and funding for research, program development, public policy and grant making to improve early childhood efforts in Minnesota. We are working together to ensure every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success.