



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

On behalf of the Early Care and Education Crisis Work Group, we are writing in support of H.F. 1876. The Crisis Work Group is a broad group of organizations that came together in 2018 to address two crises impacting Minnesota's young children: 1) Worst-in-the-nation achievement and opportunity gaps, stemming in part from lack of access to quality child care; and 2) a shortage of quality child care supply for children statewide. We understand these crises are intertwined and must be addressed in a coordinated way, and each of the crises has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

H.F. 1876 provides the scope and funding for the next round of evaluation of the Parent Aware Quality Rating and Improvement System. The Crisis Work group fully supports this proposal, as Parent Aware provides Minnesota's framework for quality in early care and education programs. Information from a next round of evaluation is necessary to ensure the Parent Aware Ratings remain evidence-based; school readiness-focused; culturally and linguistically relevant; and effective as possible. We particularly appreciate the language in the bill that requires disaggregation of the data by race, ethnicity, income, geography and other demographic factors, as that disaggregated data is the key to both **identifying** and **addressing** gaps in the equity of the system. We also strongly support the requirement that the Commissioner use the evaluation results to make public recommendations on how to continuously improve Parent Aware.

We respectfully ask for your support of this important proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Kruchoski
Work Group Co-Chair
Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen Former
Chair, Minnesota Chamber of
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