

March 16, 2022



Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee
503 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Child Care Association (MCCA) thanks you and Representative Wazlawik for the proposal to continue Child Care Stabilization Grants in HF 4133.

We have long known that the business model for child care relying mostly on parent tuition cannot provide the robust system of quality child care children, parents, and employers need. Parents cannot pay more, child care providers cannot make less, and there we have a classic market failure. When the market fails to adequately supply a public good, government has a significant role to play. We do not expect individuals to foot the total bill for the public schools, libraries, parks, emergency services, or bridges upon which we all rely and from which we all benefit. Child care supports our communities and our economy, and we all derive benefit whether we as individuals have children, use child care, or not.

The stabilization grants provided through the American Rescue Plan Act have been absolutely crucial supports during the pandemic, and have set the precedent for reliable operational funding for child care providers. Such support is needed not only as we move through and recover from the effects of COVID-19, but after and on an ongoing basis. We cannot continue to have a barely-held-together child care system forced to provide shamefully low compensation in order to keep parent fees as low (yet still unattainable for many) as possible. A continued base level of public operational funding is a sound investment in the supply of child care and in the field's ability to finally make positive strides for its workforce and the incredible service it provides.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare J. Sanford".

Clare Sanford
Chair, Government Relations, Minnesota Child Care Association