



April 24, 2023

Dear Higher Education Conferees;

Transforming Minnesota's Early Childhood Workforce was formed in 2016 to build upon the recommendations of the National Institute of Medicine's "Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age Eight" report. Our goal is to ensure Minnesota's early childhood educators are qualified, diverse, supported, and equitably compensated, regardless of setting.

Policy makers in Minnesota are sitting in an immensely powerful point in our state's history, with a nearly \$18 billion surplus and a child care sector desperately in need of transformational change. We are pleased to see so many incredible proposals that have been included in the bills you have before you in this conference committee.

To that end, we strongly encourage acceptance of the following provisions, shared in both the House and Senate omnibus bills as passed off the floor, and in the Governor's recommendations:

- **Transparent Pathway to Academic Credit for Child Development Associate Credential Holders - Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 43 (R12)**
 - \$475K one-time - to develop a transparent pathway for current CDA Credential holders to be awarded academic credit that aligns with related academic certificate, diploma, and degree programs at Minnesota State
- **Dual Training Grants - Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 21 (R6)**
 - \$4.132M increase in the FY24-25 base, and the \$264,000 increase in the base for a transfer to the Dual -Training Pipeline Program at Department of Labor and Industry in FY24-25
- **Workforce Development Scholarships - Art. 1, Sec. 3, Subd. 3(e) (R21)**
 - \$4.5M annually – to provide scholarships to students enrolled in high-demand educational programs leading to employment in six industries including early childhood education

The early care and learning sector has been "just barely getting by" for far too long. The time is now to show those Minnesotans that we, as a state, value their time and talents, that we care for them as they care for our littles, that they deserve to be acknowledged for holding up the state's economy and helping to shape young minds in the most formative years. With gratitude, we thank you for your investments and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann McCully & Nancy Jost
Co-Chairs, Transforming Minnesota's Early Childhood Workforce