

Minnesota Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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March 28, 2023

Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing in reference to the following items in HF238, the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee omnibus bill.

MNAAP strongly supports investments into the early childhood initiatives that enhance the health, education, care, and opportunity for our youngest Minnesotans. Access to these initiatives correlates to better child and adolescent health outcomes, long-term educational attainment, and improvements in youth well-being. Supported initiatives in this bill includes:

- Great Start Scholarship Program (Art. 7 Sec. 7)
- Beyond 21 Grant Program (Art. 2 Sec. 2)
- Family First Prevention and Early Intervention Allocation Program (Art. 2 Sec. 4)
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor Grant Program (Art. 1 Sec. 24)
- Child Care Retention Program (Art. 1 Sec. 25)

MNAAP also supports the language to increase the maximum childcare assistance rates in Art. 1 Sec. 36.

Additionally, child and adolescent health is heavily influenced by the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, play, and age. These social drivers of health not only drive health outcomes but contribute to the significant health inequities experienced by many Minnesotans. This bill works to address several major social drivers of health. One of which, homelessness, is directly addressed. MNAAP strongly supports many items in Article 6, including Emergency Shelter Facilities (Art. 6 Sec. 1) and the Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing Grant Program (Art. 6 Sec. 6).

Lastly, MNAAP supports the Establishment of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (Art. 7 Sec. 10) and the correlating shift of department responsibilities to focus on the health, wellbeing, and future success of our patients – Minnesota's children.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on HF238, the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Crespo".

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP
President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics