



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

March 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of our team at YMCA of the North and all the youth we serve, I am writing to express our deep gratitude for the resources the Legislature has devoted to high quality programs to help children learn and grow. We strongly support **HF 2233**.

The YMCA is committed to strong programs for children. Our Early Childhood Learning programs are designed to develop a child's potential through creative, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical skills while they grow. Our early childhood learning programs give kids the chance to explore freely through:

- Sensory activities that help with math and science comprehension,
- Arts and humanities projects that develop fine motor skills,
- Physical activities and nutritious food to encourage healthy habits,
- Swimming and water safety classes in a safe aquatic environment,
- Enrichment opportunities, such as music and movement classes or an introduction to languages like Spanish or American Sign Language.

These activities help develop skills like critical thinking, communication, and creativity.

We believe that every child should have a safe and welcoming environment where they can grow and thrive with the guidance of caring adults. We are grateful for the Legislature's support of early childhood experiences to create spaces for growth and development. Thank you for investing in Minnesota's future leaders.

If you have any questions at all about our work at the YMCA, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Glen Gunderson  
President  
YMCA of the North