



March 13, 2023

Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
200 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is writing in support of HF 2573, to support the early childhood workforce by creating an early childhood apprenticeship program, investing in workforce development scholarships, improving curriculum and creating a workforce compensation task force. The PN-3 Coalition is excited to see significant investments in Minnesota's youngest children, their families, and their caregivers. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy growth, development and learning will positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity

The Children & Families Committee has repeatedly heard about staffing, funding, and capacity issues in the early childhood field and has seen how these challenges negatively impact the industry most families rely on for their children's early care and education. This investment in the early childhood workforce will help stabilize the field by improving recruitment, education and retention strategies to equitably support those providing critical care and education to Minnesota's youngest learners.

Please join us in supporting HF 2573 to support the workforce that promotes better education, health, social and economic outcomes for families in Minnesota.

Thank you,

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Funds-MN,
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator