



children's defense fund minnesota

Dear Members of the House Early Childhood Committee:

As you begin deliberations on HF 668, Children's Defense Fund Minnesota appreciates the opportunity to share our strong support.

CDF-MN is committed to ensuring every Minnesota child has a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. Too often our youngest Minnesotans with disabilities or complex medical conditions are unable to access the benefits of a family or center-based child care provider setting. Child care shortages and COVID have only intensified the challenges for these children and their families, as well as child care providers that need support to ensure the necessary care.

HF 668 is an important first step in understanding how the state of Minnesota can better support children, families and child care providers as we strive to create a more equitable and inclusive child care system. We can learn much from the two pilots funded through this proposal to inform future efforts. Innovative solutions in the child care space can create win-win-win scenarios that enrich all – children with disabilities or complex medical conditions and their families, their fellow classmates and their families, and child care providers alike.

We encourage you to join us in support of HF 668 and fund the pilots needed to ensure all of our youngest children and their families have the opportunity to thrive with the support of a child care program.

Bharti Wahi
Executive Director

Debra Fitzpatrick
Policy and Legislative Affairs Director