



Chaska □ Golden Valley □ Hopkins □ St. Paul
(952) 935-5588 □ MisAmigosPreschool.com

January 18, 2023

RE: Support for House File 13

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dawn Uribe. I am the owner and CEO of Mis Amigos Spanish Immersion. We operate four locations in the metro area. We are NAEYC accredited and Parent Aware rated. I am unable to visit in person to testify on this matter but I wanted to tell you how important this change would be for our program, for our teachers, for our parents and especially for our youngest Minnesotans.

I choose to accept children who are receiving a subsidy because I believe that all children deserve a high-quality education. I have enough parents who are willing to pay a premium price to pay for exceptional childcare and education to fill my schools. I choose to do it because it is the right thing to do. Accepting child care assistance means increased administration, increased paperwork, increased scrutiny (even on honest mistakes) and a much longer wait time until I receive the payments. Though less than 10% of our students receive subsidy, we spend more than 90% of our administrative time on these families.

While we require parents to pay the difference between the max subsidy payments and our tuition rates, we generally do not receive the full amount that we would charge private pay families.

- Lapses in CCAP coverage (due to long wait times or unresponsive case workers) and a strict limit on absence days, means that we won't get paid the full tuition cost. We are supposed to pass those costs on to the families but it is unrealistic to collect them.
- The difference between the max rate and our tuition is usually unaffordable for CCAP families unless they are also receiving a Parent Aware Scholarship. Since the scholarships are usually only available for children 3 years and above, low-income families with children 0-3 are unable to attend our school. Raising the max rates would allow us to serve many more children who really need the early care and early intervention the most.
- Over the last two years, we have raised our tuition rates about 15% due to rapidly increasing staff costs. This puts our quality education ever further out of reach.

Studies prove over and over that investment in our youngest children greatly increases future success, costing the society less in the long run. I strongly encourage you raise the reimbursement rates to the 75th percentile so that we can serve more families who really need this help.

Sincerely,

Dawn Uribe, CEO & Owner
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