



March 11, 2021

Dear Members of the House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

On behalf of the Early Care and Education Crisis Work Group, we are writing in support of H.F. 1568. The Crisis Work Group is a broad group of organizations that came together in 2018 to address two crises impacting Minnesota's young children: 1) Worst-in-the-nation achievement and opportunity gaps, stemming in part from lack of access to quality child care; and 2) a shortage of quality child care supply for children statewide. We understand these crises are intertwined and must be addressed in a coordinated way, and each of the crises has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Work Group strongly supports H.F.1568, because it is only through ongoing collection and public reporting of data on how well Minnesota children are prepared for success in kindergarten that we can see and work to close early gaps in opportunity. Also note that the 2018 recommendations from the Office of the Legislative Auditor clearly call for assessment of readiness at kindergarten entry as a strategy for ensuring that Minnesota's early care and education is serving all children well. Minnesota's current haphazard approach, under which only some kindergarteners are assessed and no results are reported to the public is unacceptable, and this legislation provides a critical and currently missing piece of the foundation of our early education system.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Jan Kruchoski
Work Group Co-Chair
Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen Former
Chair, Minnesota Chamber of
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