



Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) is Minnesota's largest Latino-led nonprofit organization, founded in 1981 by and for Latinos. Our work is to ensure the advancement of social and economic equity and wellbeing for Latinos in Minnesota. CLUES carries out its mission through four main service pillars, including Community Wellness, Economic Prosperity, Cultural Engagement, and Children, Youth and Adult Educational Enrichment. CLUES has offices on the East Side of St. Paul, Lake Street in Minneapolis, and Willmar and Austin in Greater MN.

April 14, 2026

Honorable Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn and Members of the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

We write to ask for your support on Amendment H2929A9, in relation to H.F. 4382, addressing the Child Care Regulation Modernization. This amendment requests a change to Section 22, 142I.22 on line 117.4, page 117 of the bill as introduced, seeking to expand from 4 to 6 licenses allowed at the same commercial location or under a contiguous roof for what is now being renamed in the bill as "Community-Based Child Care Programs."

Currently known as specialized family child care spaces, CLUES was able to launch its unique version of these spaces via its Family Child Care Business Incubator pilot in late 2025, a project made possible partly by State financial support. Today, we are asking for your support on expanding the business capacity, to be able to host more family child care businesses within our current location in Eastside St. Paul. Our incubator, which we see as a tool to address our severe child care crisis, is only the second of its kind in the country.

We currently host four independent family child care businesses in our Incubator but have space to host at least two more family child care businesses. At the moment, these types of spaces are limited to housing only four businesses under a contiguous roof, and we would like to see that number increased to a minimum of six, which would allow us to provide opportunities for more providers in our current space, as well as to expand child care space capacity in the city. With the four current businesses, we have created a potential 56 new child care spots in St. Paul. With 6 spaces, this capacity would rise to a potential 84 child care spots. We asked our Fire Marshall if they saw any safety issues with the proposal and they were supportive of this change, not seeing a major concern, as child care centers often have more than 4 classrooms. St. Paul Mayor Her also let us know she would be in support of this change.

As you know, these types of spaces only passed into law in 2021 and we are grateful for the opportunity this has afforded our organization to continue to support our network of family child care providers, which reaches up to 600 providers, and to support the state in addressing our child care crisis through innovative solutions. Thank you for supporting this Amendment.

Respectfully,

Liliana Letran-Garcia
CLUES President and CEO