



March 23, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for HF 4432

Chairs and Members of the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) is writing to advocate for the safety, stability, and dignity of the children, families, and professionals we serve across our state.

We value the bill's intent to ensure that families and child care providers have access to a basic need and are not penalized when children are absent due to extenuating circumstances beyond a family's control. This reflects our core values of serving all families with dignity and respect.

We support key elements of this bill, including:

- Establishing an exemption to the current 25-day annual and 10-consecutive-day absent day caps under CCAP, so that providers can continue to be reimbursed when absences arise from extenuating circumstances such as housing instability, family crisis, or transportation barriers.
- Protecting family stability by ensuring that families already navigating difficult circumstances do not face the added threat of losing their child care placement, which is a service that enables parents to maintain employment, pursue education, and provide for their children.
- Strengthening child care providers and workforce infrastructure. Providers who serve families receiving CCAP operate on thin margins. Unreimbursed absent days create financial instability that threatens their ability to remain open, particularly in Greater Minnesota and underserved communities. Child care is foundational workforce infrastructure, and when families lose placements, parents are forced out of the workforce and employers lose reliable employees.

Minnesotans rely on the consistency and trusted relationships found in our public schools to weather uncertain times. We ask that you stand with us in creating spaces where children feel safe enough to grow into who they are meant to be.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to Minnesota's youngest learners and their families.

Sincerely,

Jen Jaros, Early Childhood Family Education Coordinator
Government Relations Chair, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education,
www.mnafee.org



March 23, 2026

Letter of Support for HF 4432

Re: AbsentDay Limit Flexibility for Child Care Providers

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Jamie Bonczyk, and on behalf of Greater Twin Cities United Way, I am writing in strong support of HF 4432, which would add critical flexibility to Minnesota's child care absentday reimbursement policy by allowing providers to request relief from the current 25day limit in approved, extraordinary circumstances such as facility breakdowns, natural disasters, or public health emergencies.

I offer this support both as a professional who has worked directly with children, families, and early childhood staff, and as someone who has witnessed firsthand how rigid systems can unintentionally destabilize the providers our communities depend on most.

In 2011, I worked with children, families, and staff during the tornado that struck North Minneapolis. Child care providers were expected to offer stability and care amid widespread damage, displacement, and trauma, often while managing disruptions to their own facilities and livelihoods. Years later, as a child care executive director during the COVID19 pandemic, I again saw how extraordinary circumstances exposed the fragility of child care businesses and the limitations of policies designed for "normal" conditions.

Child care providers operate on razorthin margins. Even when facilities remain open, circumstances beyond their control such as safety concerns, public health guidance, or localized emergencies can prevent families from attending care. In these situations, providers continue to pay staff and maintain operations while losing reimbursement tied to attendance. The financial impact can be devastating, forcing providers to absorb losses, lay off staff, or close permanently. When providers close, families lose care, staff lose jobs, and communities lose essential early childhood infrastructure.

HF 4432 offers a reasonable and targeted solution. It does not eliminate accountability or create an openended exemption. Instead, it recognizes that extraordinary circumstances require flexibility and gives providers a mechanism to request relief when the absentday limit does not reflect reality. This approach balances fiscal responsibility with the practical needs of child care businesses and the



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UNITED WAY

families they serve.

Importantly, this flexibility supports the longterm sustainability of Minnesota's child care system. Because the absence limit continues over a 12month period, its financial impact is ongoing, not onetime. Without flexibility, we risk accelerating provider burnout and closures, outcomes our state cannot afford.

HF 4432 acknowledges a simple truth: resilience requires systems that can adapt in moments of crisis. I urge you to support this bill and help ensure that Minnesota's child care policies reflect the realities providers face today and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to children, families, and the early childhood workforce.

Sincerely,

Jamie Bonczyk
Senior Program Officer, 80x3: Resilient from the Start
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Minneapolis, Minnesota

March 24, 2026

Chair and Members
House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Chair and Members,

On behalf of the YMCA of the North, I am writing to express our strong support for House File 4432 and to share why this policy change is so important from our perspective as the state's largest nonprofit child care provider.

At the YMCA, our ability to provide safe, reliable, and high-quality care depends on stable staffing, consistent programming, and financially sustainable operations. When any of these elements are disrupted, families feel it immediately. Policies within the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) directly shape whether providers like the YMCA can maintain that stability and continue meeting the needs of children and working families across Minnesota.

Under current absent day limits, providers face a difficult reality during unexpected disruptions. When extraordinary events occur, such as severe weather closures, public health concerns, or community-wide emergencies, attendance drops or programs must temporarily close. In those moments, providers lose reimbursement for absent days, even though fixed costs like staff wages, rent, and program expenses remain unchanged.

For providers, this creates significant operational strain. We continue to pay and retain qualified staff so they are there when families return. We maintain our facilities so programs can reopen safely and quickly. But without flexibility in CCAP reimbursement, these responsible decisions come at a financial loss.

HF 4432 provides a practical and necessary solution. By allowing exemptions from absent day limits during extraordinary events, the bill ensures providers are not penalized for circumstances beyond their control and can maintain financial stability, retain staff, and continue serving families.

For providers, this is essential to sustaining high-quality programs in our communities. Without this support, disruptions can force difficult decision – including reducing capacity or closing programs –resulting in fewer child care options for families and a loss of critical infrastructure that supports working parents.

HF 4432 helps prevent those outcomes. It allows providers like the YMCA to weather short-term disruptions without jeopardizing long-term service. It strengthens the continuity families rely on and reinforces the stability of our child care system. We appreciate your consideration of this important issue and respectfully urge your support for HF 4432.

Jenny Collins
Vice President, Education and Child Care
YMCA of the North

YMCA OF THE NORTH

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