From: Sandra Taenzer
To: Patrick McQuillan
Subject: Sustainable Funding for "Help Me Connect"
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 7:52:16 PM

Dear Representative McQuillan,

Sustainable funding for "Help Me Connect" is critical support for prenatal to five young children and their families in Minnesota. My husband & I moved to Minnesota 20 years ago when we retired. I began my career as a Speech Language Pathologist, was a Board of Education Member for the 3rd largest District in IL, & for 30 years the Director of Early Childhood Education, Schaumburg , IL SD54 & the Project Director for 23 Million dollars of State & Federal Grants. While in MN I have volunteered services to EI/ECSE as much as 30 hours a week.

It is my deepest & profound concern that early care & early learning are not sufficiently or intensively funded in any part of MN. Sustainable funding for "Help Me Connect" is the first essential step to services for young children. Please use the recurring dollars to provided universal services for all children 0-5.

Research reported today: https://srcd.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cdev.13752?af=R which shows early childhood education improves high school outcomes not only readiness skills. Over 30 years while serving thousands of children 0-5 & their families in ILSD54 we dropped middle & high school special education numbers by 50%. A 2018 Study by Dr. Arthur Reynolds, University of Minnesota, shows outcomes at age 35. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/peds/articlepdf/2668645/jamapediatrics_reynolds_2018_oi_170099.pdf. Please consider sustainable services for ALL children prenatal-5 as the payoff is extraordinary in taxes paid, graduation rates in high school & college are greatly enhanced.

Thank you for your service,

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