



Minnesota Child Care Provider
Information Network
PO Box 1136
Prior Lake, MN 55372
651-636-1989
www.mccpin.org

The mission of the Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN) is to support, promote and strengthen the profession of licensed family child care, thereby enriching the lives of providers, children, families, and communities.

March 29, 2022

RE: HF4593 Ombudsperson for family child care provider federal money requirement and allocation modified.

Mr. Chair & Committee members.

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 26 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN), a 501c3 sitewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers. I also served as the MCCPIN representative on the Family Child Care Task Force years which is where the basis for this position was supported.

I am testifying in support of HF4593 for MCCPIN which provides an avenue for continued funding for this much needed position. Though still unfilled, this position was strongly supported within the task force membership under the work of Duty 8 and greatly needed.

Family Child Care providers are in a constant position of attempting to navigate the disjointed licensing system with no road map and no centralized support. Providers move forward doing their best and frequently wondering if they are doing the right steps.

When things do not go well, especially in cases of negative actions, correction orders etc. the only individuals to instruct what to do are those on the 'other side' of the accusation. DHS/county licensors have a vested interest in speaking from a point of view which benefits their decisions. They are not neutral in their advice and direction.

I am one of the individual's providers call who IF providers know me, MCCPIN or another provider who knows me. Almost daily, I receive emails or phone calls from providers frustrated with not knowing where to get answers on procedure or who to call. Calls range from a provider receiving a negative action such as a Temporary Immediate Suspension, a county not processing background checks, a child dying of SUIDS and where to find documents/forms.

Funding to ensure that this position continues to be available for providers is critical.



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This position must be supported to be on-going provide connection and answers for Licensed Family Child Care Providers. This position needs to be established outside of political arenas and focus strictly on assisting providers with information and support to navigate licensing challenges.

Please support HF4593

Sincerely,

Cyndi Cunningham
MCCPIN Public Policy Chairperson