

Representative Dave Pinto Chair, Children and Families Finance & Policy Committee 503 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

March 8, 2023

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Start Early Funders Coalition, we express our support for HF 1815, expanding executive functioning curriculum. We are a coalition of funders with a shared vision that every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success. Our coalition is committed to supporting policies that will benefit low-income children, rural children and families as well as Black, Indigenous and children of color and their families; and the programs that serve them.

Executive functioning is core to early childhood development and child care and early learning programs that focus on executive functioning provide the foundation needed for future educational success. These foundational skills help young children regulate their emotions and behavior, follow directions, make decisions and make transitions. These skills, among many others, are essential to build in early childhood, and help children grow into adults that are proficient at maintaining employment, managing stressful situations, problem solving and meeting the demands of our lives. HF 1815 provides the opportunity for a leader in the field, The Family Partnership, to expand the reach of their executive functioning curriculum, building the quality of child care and early learning. The focus of this bill reaching rural, suburban and urban child care and early learning providers including home visiting programs. This work is essential and will greatly improve the lives of children, their families and our communities at large.

We support a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to a continuum of high-quality child care and early learning programs. We must maintain and continue to grow equitable investments in critical early childhood programs based on ongoing community feedback and guidance. Thank you,

Carrie Zelin Johnson Start Early Funder Coalition Coordinator Allison Corrado Public Policy Committee

Denise Mayotte Public Policy Committee Nancy Jost Public Policy Committee