



To:
The Honorable Dave Pinto, Chair
Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

March 20, 2023

Support the MinneKIDS Act! HF2864 (Kotzya-Witthun) / SF2850 (Boldon)

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee:

The Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation writes in support of the MinneKIDS Act (HF2864 / SF2850) to establish a statewide children's savings account program for every baby born in Minnesota. The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation is a statewide community foundation that serves all of Minnesota and steward \$1.7 billion in charitable assets for community good. We envision an equitable, just and vibrant Minnesota where all communities and people thrive.

Legislators from every corner of the state should be excited about the MinneKIDS Local Partnership Grants included in this bill. Nonprofits, local cities and counties, regional United Ways, tribal nations, and other entities can apply for the start-up grants if their community doesn't already have a CSA, while at the same time expansion grants are available to existing CSA programs like the CollegeBound Saint Paul program. These Local Partnership grants can be used for a broad set of activities to make CSAs work in their communities, including: convening stakeholders; using for marketing, community engagement, and programming wraparound supports; staffing for local coordination; or building the MinneKIDS accounts with additional savings. Notably, 50% of the startup grants must be distributed to Greater Minnesota and tribal governments.

In the 17 states with a statewide CSA program, local partnership grants and activities are a winning formula when paired with a centrally administered statewide CSA program. For example, Promise Indiana is a great proof point of the impact local partnerships can have in amplifying CSAs in rural communities.

As a philanthropic organization with a statewide footprint, we know all Minnesota children from the Iron Range to the western prairies to tribal nations to every corner of the state would benefit from a children's savings account and whole communities supporting the future of children after high school.

We ask for your support of the MinneKIDS Act (HF2864 / SF2850).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anil B. Hurkadli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anil B. Hurkadli
Senior Vice President
Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation