

March 10, 2023

Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

Chair Pinto and Members of the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of Think Small, we are writing in support of HF 2573. Through our work on the Transforming Minnesota's Early Childhood Workforce Leadership Team, Think Small collaborates with other stakeholders to advance solutions that address the challenges facing the early childhood workforce. The elements presented in HF 2573 contain some of these solutions.

There are many experienced and knowledgeable early childhood educators in our state. The apprenticeship program in this bill connects those experts with new educators to provide essential guidance and support. The bill also contains dedicated Workforce Development Scholarships for prospective early childhood educators, which will encourage more people to enter the field.

Positive relationships between child and caregiver are a foundational component of quality early childhood programs. A workforce of qualified, diverse, supported and fairly-compensated early childhood educators is crucial to forming these positive relationships. By ensuring early childhood educators across the state have the necessary knowledge, competencies, and skills, we ensure more children will have the great start they need to succeed in school and life.

The early care and learning needs across our state are urgent, vast, and multifaceted. HF 2573 is one important part of the solution, and we encourage you to support it. We look forward to continuing to work with you on comprehensive and sustainable solutions to support quality child care.

Thank you again for your work to support young children and families in Minnesota. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Barbara Yates
President and CEO, Think Small