



# MACSSA

Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators

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March 1, 2021

Representative Dave Pinto, Chair  
Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee  
503 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 1467 – Increase Access to Basic Sliding Fee Child Care

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the House Early Childhood Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA), a professional association of human service administrators that serve the citizens of Minnesota's 87 counties, thank you for hearing HF 1467 and thank you to Representative Pryor for chief authoring this bill. It addresses an issue that counties are seeing across the state – insufficient funding available to assist low-income families in securing quality childcare, many of which are essential workers directly impacted by the pandemic. The Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) Child Care Program supports families who are striving to work and avoid going onto MFIP, while also ensuring that the children in the family get the benefits of childcare.

HF 1467 simplifies the BSF Child Care Program by reordering the wait list priorities. The proposal would reorganize the five existing categories within the BSF Child Care Program. Currently, counties are required to prioritize BSF funding for families exiting MFIP. However, these families are already receiving childcare through the MFIP Child Care Program, which does not use limited BSF funds, but rather utilizes forecast funds. In contrast, when utilizing BSF funds the risk for overspending is held by each county individually. The proposal would no longer require scarce BSF funds to be spent on these families already receiving childcare through MFIP Child Care Program until all other categories have been served, including veterans, and working poor families (the largest category). More children would receive care and more families of essential workers would receive childcare assistance. This action will also increase county ability to maximize services while being prudent stewards of local resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our perspective and comments. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation that will provide affordable and quality childcare to more working families at a time when it is so urgently needed. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Freeman  
MACSSA Executive Director