

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

**RE: Support for HF 4735 – Basic Sliding Fee Child Care**

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

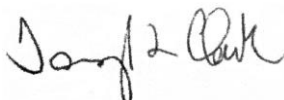
On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), we thank you for including the Basic Sliding Fee Child Care prioritization provisions in HF 4735 and thank Representative Pryor for chief authoring this important legislation. Access to safe and affordable child care is key component to building a foundation that supports a thriving workforce and a priority issue for both organizations. The Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) Child Care Program is a critical tool to support parents who are striving to access the workforce for the first time or returning to the workforce after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 legislature increased funding allocations for the BSF program and temporarily reprioritized the waiting list priorities. These changes have made a tremendous difference and significantly impacted the ability of counties to address child care needs and help more families access child care assistance. The BSF Child Care Program is crucial to enabling more parents to join the workforce while providing a safe and supportive learning environment for their children. Making the current prioritization permanent will allow counties to continue to serve more families who would not otherwise have access to child care assistance.

We applaud Chair Pinto and this committee for including these important provisions in HF 4735 and respectfully urge your support to make this prioritization permanent, so counties do not have to resume waiting lists, and to allow full utilization of the annual BSF allocation for families who have no other means of support.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Tarryl Clark  
Chair, AMC Health and Human Services Committee  
Commissioner, Stearns County



Barb Dahl  
President, MACSSA  
Social Services Director, Scott County

