

December 9, 2020

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

Think Small strongly supports continued funding for the **COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds for Child Care Programs** and funding for the **Basic Sliding Fee waitlist**.

The Minnesota Hospital Association has identified access to child care as one of their top three reasons that staff are unable to work. We are at a critical point in the pandemic where cases continue to rise. In order to ensure health care professionals can care for patients with COVID-19, we must be able to connect families to the care that they need. An essential part of that is ensuring child programs are open.

Essential workers need child care, and many of these workers qualify for the Basic Sliding Fee. Providing funds to the waitlist will help ensure more essential workers are able to work.

Thank you for your continued work to guide Minnesota through these challenging times. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely



Barbara Yates, President and CEO
Think Small