

March 16, 2017

Re: House File 723

Chair Dean and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paula Landis, and I am the Director of Curriculum at YWCA Minneapolis. I have been in the field of Early Childhood Education since I was an adolescent. I have a BA in Education with a focus on Sociology and Psychology, I have a Masters in Education, and am a Doctoral Candidate for Educational Leadership. I have three children, 14, 12, and 8 years old. I am a single, full-time parent.

Affordable child care is one of the many barriers families face when it comes to a parent's ability to work. I ask this Committee to make child care more affordable by supporting House File 723.

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) made it possible for me to work and go to school. As a parent, CCAP made it possible for my children to have consistent, high-quality care while I worked and went to school. As a teacher of teachers, I see a parent's ability to work or attend classes directly tied to whether her child has an early childhood program.

The wait time for me was 18 months. Waiting for the ability to work was very difficult, as was the eligibility redetermination process. It felt like I was constantly refileing and/or losing my CCAP, and the rates would fluctuate dramatically each month.

Overall, CCAP helped my family get off of assistance because I was able to be at work consistently. I have since been promoted twice within my organization and I believe a large part of the credit goes to CCAP.

I am excited that this bill includes important CCAP updates that better support families, including increasing funding for Basic Sliding Fee CCAP. There are currently over 5,000 families on the wait list, and without additional funding, the number of families served will continue to decrease.

More families need help; there are so many waiting to have a stable child care situation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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**Children's Center at  
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**Children's Center  
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