



Minnesota Child Care Provider
Information Network
PO Box 1136
Prior Lake, MN 55372
651-636-1989
www.mccpin.org

The mission of the Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN) is to support, promote and strengthen the profession of licensed family child care, thereby enriching the lives of providers, children, families, and communities.

March 29, 2022

RE: HF4419 Brain Builders Bonus Program

Mr. Chair & Committee members.

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 26 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN), a 501c3 sitewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers. I served as the MCCPIN representative on the Family Child Care Task Force over the past two years.

I have been on the frontlines with legislators over the past years searching for ways to support Licensed Family Child Care (LFCC). Our industry is greatly declining in numbers, having lost almost half of our programs over the past few years. Half. What industry declines by half without the public paying attention?

I appreciate Rep. Pryor paying attention and attempting a solution to one challenge LFCCs manage in our businesses. Ratios. Caring for infants and toddlers reduces the total number of children we can have in care, thereby automatically reducing our income. The options are too loose income, charge a significantly higher fee such as the centers charge which is cost prohibitive for families or care for less infants and toddlers.

If I care for 3 under 2 years of age, which I am currently, I lose the ability to enroll 2 other children. Essentially losing almost \$400 per week.

Rep. Pryor approached me with this concept of a bonus for LFCC and I offered my input.

This current amendment includes some aspects we discussed which are positive such as the split year payment.



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However, MCCPIN is not supportive of the bill as written as it will not accomplish the support of LFCC industry to care for infants and toddlers as intended.

- CCAP clients only
 - FCCs do not have the ability to control the clients who contact us and enroll
 - Will greatly reduce the number of LFCCs who will qualify...
- or work for a LFCC, Questions for distribution
 - LFCCs are both business owners and providers
 - Would both the LFCC owner/provider and the employee/co-licensed provider both receive \$5000?
 - Would just the program receive the \$5,000
 - How would the monitoring of this worker role be managed?
- Legal Non-licensed settings are not equal to a LFCC.
 - Legal non-licensed settings provide a valuable service to their families & friends (I utilized such a setting when my children were young)
 - LFCCs are running a business, and we believe state money would best be served supporting businesses, in particular with the decline in LFCC programs
 - Registering and monitoring of legal non-licensed is a loose system, subject to complications and potential questionable financial distribution
 - LFCCs have many standards of requirements which must be met and monitored such as safe sleep requirements for infants is only on LFCCs, not legally non-licensed

Again, we appreciate the intention to support LFCCs caring for infants and toddlers. We do not support bill as it is written with the forementioned reasons.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Cunningham
MCCPIN Public Policy Chairperson