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February 17, 2025

Dear Chair West and Members of the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Association of Family Child Care Professionals (MACCP) urges you to vote YES on HF 633 and the DE1 Amendment.

Each day, Minnesota's 5,741 licensed family child care providers provide quality early care and education for children of all ages, giving them opportunities to grow and learn in a secure, loving, family-like environment. Unfortunately, since 2011, we've witnessed and warned about the devastating loss of licensed family child care providers that is causing this child care crisis.

On January 1, 2025, there were 5,782 licensed family child care providers. In only one month, we've lost 41 of them! The tragic fact is that this is not unusual. We have lost an average of 1-2 licensed family child care providers since 2011, when there were almost 12,000. This has resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of child care slots.

Family child care is by far the most affordable option for licensed care and—in many rural areas—it is the only viable option. Over-regulation, compounded training requirements, an increasingly punitive method of oversight, and the ever-increasing liability in our profession have increased the difficulty and costs to run a family child care business. Moreover, the costs of food, insurance, materials, cleaning supplies, and other items needed to provide safe and loving programs for children have soared astronomically over the last several years. These have all exacerbated the loss of providers.

However, HF 633, with the DE1 amendment, would provide much-needed tax relief to licensed family child care providers and help them continue providing care without costing the state any money.

Minnesota's children, families, providers, and economy cannot continue sustaining the loss of licensed family child care providers. We encourage you to consider the needs of Minnesota's children, families, and licensed family child care providers and vote YES on HF 633.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hollee Saville
MACCP President