

January 18th, 2023

RE: HF13

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Minneapolis

Dear Chair Pinto and Committee Members,

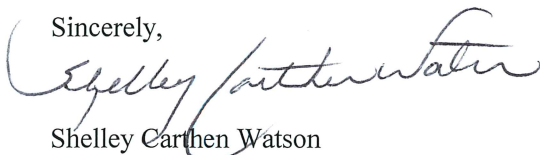
We at YWCA Minneapolis are glad to see the introduction of a bill to increase CCAP rates to the 75th percentile in the State of Minnesota. We would like to take this opportunity to give you our perspective on the importance of CCAP balanced with the nuances of child care centers like ours which offer sliding scale rates, scholarships, and also support private pay families.

YWCA Minneapolis is one of more than 200 local associations under YWCA USA, the oldest multicultural organization in the nation, all sharing the mission of **eliminating racism, empowering women and girls, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all**. YWCA Minneapolis supports three health & wellness sites and **five early childhood education centers in Minneapolis and Saint Paul**, racial justice and public policy engagement, **a workforce development training program supporting early childhood educators in obtaining their CDA credential**, and one of the largest in and out of school time girls & youth programs in the Twin Cities Metro area. YWCA Minneapolis impacted over 15,000 community members in our last fiscal year, including nearly 500 children in our ECE classrooms. Our ECE programs serve 500+ students and families annually with classrooms of ages 6 weeks to school age. In line with our mission, we offer scholarships and reduced rate tuition opportunities. More than 60% of our families are CCAP eligible.

For our centers to keep running at their current capacity and beyond, we require a balance of CCAP eligible payment / reimbursement with private pay family rates. We support a CCAP rate increase because it is vital in making early childhood education affordable and accessible to all Minnesota families. While we acknowledge some of the concerns about the increase resulting in private pay families being priced out, we do not want that to negate our support of child care affordability in this state, including at our centers. We therefore favor the inclusion of an amendment to prevent any price out of private pay families with the CCAP increase, allowing centers like ours to continue to operate a robust and diverse early childhood education program.

Thank you for all your work for Minnesotans, and in particular on this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure inclusive, accessible, and affordable early care for our youngest residents.

Sincerely,



Shelley Carthen Watson
President and Chief Executive Officer

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612-332-0501

Midtown
2121 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-215-4333

Uptown
2808 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-874-7131

North Commons Park
1801 James Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612-522-6559

**Children's Center at
Abbott Northwestern Hospital**
800 East 28th Street #15103
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-863-0971

**Children's Center
at Ecolab**
80 West 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-250-3540

**Children's Center at Hubbs
Center for Lifelong Learning**
1030 University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-744-7525

ywcamps.org

**YWCA IS ON
A MISSION**