



## Minnesota Children's Museum

March 15, 2023

Rep. Cheryl Youakim  
Chair, House Education Finance Committee  
443 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Madam Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF2497, the Governor's proposed E-12 budget and for inviting us earlier this session to come before your committee on behalf of Minnesota Children's Museum.

As we highlighted during the committee meeting, Minnesota Children's Museum has been sparking children's learning through play for more than 40 years. Generations of Minnesota families have experienced the joy and boundless learning that stems from the hands-on learning opportunities the museum provides.

We are pleased to see that the Governor has again included funding for Minnesota Children's Museum in his budget. As in years past, **the funds would support the museum's All Play access program, which ensures that all families, regardless of income, can experience the museum's interactive educational experiences.**

While we are grateful for the proposed \$269,000 each year of the biennium, we would like to remind the committee that this amount has remained essentially flat since 1997, while usage of the access program has grown 1,000%. **Even with the requested increase to \$500,000, the education funding would support only about 40% of what the museum spends each year on the All Play access program.**

The museum asks the committee to support the amount in HF118 and include the higher amount for Minnesota Children's Museum in their omnibus E-12 spending package. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Dianne Krizan  
President, Minnesota Children's Museum

