



Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Health Finance and Policy
503 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 14, 2022

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Start Early Funders Coalition, we express our support for HF 4133 to provide stabilization grants for early care and education providers before your committee. Our vision is that every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success. Our coalition is committed to advancing racial equity in our early childhood systems and advocating for policies that benefit Black, Indigenous and other children of color, their families and the programs that serve them.

Early childhood professionals have been on the front lines since the onset of Covid19. These professionals have kept and continue to keep the rest of our workforce operating by remaining open and caring for and educating our youngest Minnesotans. Early care and education is the backbone of our economy as the businesses that keep other businesses open and operating. And yet, our early childhood businesses are struggling to remain open. Stabilization grants add crucial stability and support in a difficult market system in a particularly challenging time and allows early care and education professionals to make ends meet.

The Start Early Funders Coalition supports a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to a continuum of high-quality early education programs. Families and our economy rely on a broad range of program types supported with prioritized state and federal funding. We must maintain and continue to grow equitable investments in critical early childhood programs based on ongoing community feedback and guidance. Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carrie Zelin Johnson".

Carrie Zelin Johnson
Start Early Funders Coalition Coordinator
Start Early Funders Coalition

The Start Early Funders Coalition for Children and Minnesota's Future is a collaboration of more than 15 members of Minnesota's philanthropic community. The Coalition provides critical leadership and funding for research, program development, public policy and grant making to improve early childhood efforts in Minnesota. We are working together to ensure every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success.