



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.

February 16, 2021

HF005 delete all, providing summer programing.

Mister Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 24 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 on behalf of MCCPIN am speaking to positive and negatives about this delete all.

Positives:

- Acknowledges that the pandemic has negatively affected all children in their education. Children with special needs, low income, poor access to internet, and poor access to quality care have been hard hit.
- Families have been stressed beyond the breaking point on how to financially support their families and their children's education.
- This negative affect has been for all children not just preschool children. Many of these preschool children have been in supportive child care settings and will be ready for school, despite the pandemic.

Negative: MCCPIN does not support the carving out of preschool children placing them in school settings developed on such a short time frame. We believe all children should be supported in all care settings to stay with the multi care setting model Minnesota relies on.

- This proposal will interrupt continuity of care both during the summer and into the school year as there are not provisions for wrap around and continued care in the current care setting. Continuity of care is the most critical aspect of a child's success in life and in school.
- Children will lose their current care settings as providers will be unable to hold these slots, parents will not be able to pay to hold their care setting and when school begins there will not be care settings to enroll these children. This will create its own contribution to the child care crisis.



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- This proposal deems that the only setting which a child can be prepared for school is in a school setting. Children need prepared for school but that does not mean putting them in a classroom to be prepared for a classroom. This proposal negates many care and educational settings which can afford children the ability to be prepared for Kindergarten.
- Stating that a program must have 6 hours of instruction does not honor a preschool child's need for learning in a developmentally appropriate manner. Preschoolers do not need to be 'instructed' to be prepared for classroom.
- The instruction definition is a major problem in this bill.
 - What is the set curriculum for this instruction? Preschoolers do not need to know all letters, numbers and how to read to be ready for kindergarten.
 - Who decides what 6 hours looks like? Do children need to be in a chair and have an adult instruct? Or should they be in a Developmentally Appropriate Program which honors their age? This does not need to be a classroom.

Child care settings where children are currently enrolled can provide developmentally appropriate learning without requiring a child to be in school. Many settings are rated and those who aren't in the voluntary rating program prepare children for kindergarten in spite of the pandemic.

MCCPIN acknowledges that there will be many children struggling to re-enter school in the fall of 2021 due to the pandemic. Carving out the preschool children into a school setting will not solve the challenges for the full school. It will however complicate care for preschoolers and kindergarteners.

Rely on the efforts of all care settings to support families and children, not just the classroom.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Cunningham

MCCPIN Public Policy Chairperson