

February 24, 2021

Dear Members of the House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

On behalf of the Early Care and Education Crisis Work Group, we are writing in support of H.F. 413. The Crisis Work Group is a broad group of organizations that came together in 2018 to address two crises impacting Minnesota's young children: 1) Worst-in-the-nation achievement and opportunity gaps, stemming in part from lack of access to quality child care; and 2) a shortage of quality child care supply for children statewide. We understand these crises are intertwined and must be addressed in a coordinated way, and each of the crises has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Work Group strongly supports policies, such as H.F.413, which squarely address both opportunity and supply gaps in Minnesota's early learning system. We support H.F. 413 because it includes funding to support local communities in planning, technical assistance, private sector engagement, matched with state appropriation, to increase the supply of early learning opportunities in the local communities served by the Minnesota Initiative Foundations. Those efforts build supply, and importantly, H.F.413 also includes a strong focus on and requirement for quality, which is necessary if our state is going to also address achievement gaps resulting from gaps in opportunity for high quality early care and education.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Jan Kruchoski
Work Group Co-Chair
Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen
Former Chair, Minnesota Chamber
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