



March 1, 2021

***Sent via Email**

The Honorable Representative Dave Pinto, Chair
Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee
503 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 1467 – CCAP Basic Sliding Fee Waitlist Reprioritization

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the House Early Childhood Committee:

On behalf of Olmsted County, thank you for hearing [HF 1467](#) and to Representative Pryor for chief authoring the bill. The Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) Child Care Program supports families who are striving to work and avoid going onto MFIP, while also ensuring the children in the family get access to safe and reliable child care. BSF child care offers families a ladder out of poverty.

Counties receive a capped allocation annually for BSF. When the number of applications and need for care exceed the available funds, the county must establish a waitlist to access assistance. Moving families from the waitlist to BSF when funding is available, can only be done by following complex rules laid out in statute. As of December 2020, Olmsted County had 226 families on the waitlist and other counties are in similar situations.

The proposed reprioritization changes a behind-the-scene waiting list process, prioritizing families who do not already have child care over those who have child care paid for in a different way. This means that families who don't currently have child care will receive county BSF allocation first. Reordering the waitlist priorities will bring affordable child care to more working families immediately.

The reprioritization may also help with COVID-19 recovery. The Department of Human Services estimates that over 80% of people eligible for the BSF program are essential workers. Ensuring safe and reliable child care for more families will allow them to work and help the economy recover from COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Stephanie Podulke

3/1/2021 | 8:51 AM CST

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Stephanie Podulke, Chair
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
podulke.stephanie@co.olmsted.mn.us