



Minnesota Child Care Provider
Information Network
PO Box 1136
Prior Lake, MN 55372
651-636-1989
www.mccpin.org

February 22, 2022

Re: HF2655 Voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus program expansion made permanent, and money appropriated.

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 am writing on behalf of MCCPIN to not support the expansion and permanence of this program.

This step appears to be to establish the direction of implementing the new programming presented last week to meet the governor's budget for meeting at risk 4-year-olds.

Making these programs permanent and funding at a higher level just entrenches Minnesota in a plan which is fragmented, and which has unintended consequences on the whole of ECE, in particular, parent choice. These programs remove children from other settings thereby diminishing other programs from being viable businesses.

ECE in Minnesota needs an overall umbrella approach and stop the fragmenting. Start looking at what is truly needed for children to be successful in life and school.

[A top researcher says it's time to rethink our entire approach to pre-K : NPR](#)

The Great Disconnect in Early Childhood Education: What We Know vs What We do, by [Michael Gramling](#) (Author), [Elizabeth Jones](#) (Foreword)

At issue:

- **Ready for school has not been universally defined and the statements that children in Minnesota are not prepared for school is not based upon reports from schools.**
 - **There is no one entry assessment**
 - **There is no requirement for schools to assess upon entry**
 - **There is no evaluation as to what setting children are in prior to entry**
- **Families and children need funded** individually for the ability to choose programs. **Programs do not need funded** to meet their Early Childhood Education needs.
 - Funding programs is a build it and they will come approach
 - Children need to be met where they are at with the supports, they need

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.



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- MDE's proposal as was presented last week to model after the Build Back Better (BBB) is a failed structure and we believe will not support all children and settings
 - Not passed in Congress, if/when it does then the state will be given the opportunity to assess what is best for Minnesota children and make a state wide decision, not a piecemeal
 - Mixed Delivery in the BBB is opposed by many in the nation. I have been in many meetings with those in the nation who support funding for child care and Early Childhood Education, however, oppose the structure of the mixed delivery
 - Requiring a degree will exclude many settings including those rated under the QRIS Parent Aware which sole bases has been to prepare children for school! There are also programs well suited to prepare children for school & life such as Accredited programs, CDA, Montessori trained, etc.
 - The ratios of 30/30/40 was stated as required and yet in discussion with MDE it has been suggested that they are not in a position to require districts to hold to that percentage
 - Without a requirement of accountability that truly shows mixed delivery, the eventuality will be that settings will be narrowed to schools & Head Start and parents will lose choice as there will not be a variety of settings available.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Cunningham

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