



Greater Twin Cities
United Way
gtcuw.org

February 3, 2023

Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Greater Twin Cities United Way writes in support of HF13 that will increase the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates to the 75th percentile, and expand access to high-quality, trauma-sensitive, culturally responsive early care and education for all families and children prenatal-five.

At Greater Twin Cities United Way, our mission is to unite changemakers, advocate for social good and develop solutions to address the challenges no one can solve alone. Together with our partners, we touched over 500,000 lives across the nine-county metro area last year. We fund over 100 nonprofits and coalitions through multi-year general operations grants, innovation initiatives and supportive funds directed toward our partners' most pressing needs in the areas of Household Stability, Educational Success and Economic Opportunity.

Early care and learning start at birth and are critical to supporting a child's healthy development. Paired with stable relationships, high quality early care and education has been documented to have long-term benefits that build strong social skills, improved academic success and healthy brain development. From birth to age three, a child's brain produces more than one million connections each second, with up to 90 percent of development occurring by age five.

Despite these important benefits, nearly 31,000 children in Minnesota still do not have access to quality early care and learning opportunities. Increased investments in CCAP that allow for reimbursement rates at the 75th percentile will expand access to high quality, trauma-sensitive, culturally responsive early care and education to all families with children prenatal to age five.

We know that one of the biggest drivers of economic stability and overall well-being for families is their children's access to quality care, learning and socialization opportunities at an early age. Expanding access to CCAP represents an important step toward building a more stable, accessible, and robust early childhood system in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Susan Carter
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