



February 13, 2023

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, House Economic Development, Finance & Policy Committee

Dear Madam Chair and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs representing seventeen YMCA Associations throughout our great state would like to submit this letter of support for HF 1180 Brand, the **Greater Minnesota Child Care Facility Program Funding Provided and Money Appropriated Program**.

There are many communities throughout Greater Minnesota that have a need for affordable childcare. The startup costs to establish affordable childcare prevent many communities like those we know of in Albert Lee, Fergus Falls, Marshall, St. Cloud and Winona as well as other communities in Minnesota to build additional childcare facilities. HF1180 helps provide communities the resources to invest in childcare facilities, provide additional jobs and give families affordable day care.

The YMCA is one of largest nonprofit providers of childcare in Minnesota. Over 2000 children per day attend early childhood YMCA programs throughout the state. All YMCA locations including Alexandria, Austin, Brainerd, Duluth, Grand Marias, Grand Rapids, Lakeville, Mankato, Red Wing, Rochester, Willmar, and Winona provide scholarships or have subsidized programs to support low-income families but our capacities do not meet the needs in our communities. Our Alliance understands the needs for having childcare facilities across the state and this bill will help meet those needs.

The Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs encourage you and the committee to approve this important childcare facilities funding legislation.

Sincerely,

David Dominick
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