

March 16, 2022



Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee
503 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Child Care Association (MCCA), I would like to register our support for House File 4278. This bill represents a relatively small investment that will help inform large decisions surrounding future compensation, preparation, and retention efforts for early educators.

We have been pleased to see the legislature acknowledge low compensation as a significant barrier for the early care and education (ECE) field and take steps to address it. However, our data on the ECE workforce is not as comprehensive nor up to date as we would like. To make the most informed decisions about future policy efforts in compensation, benefits, and more we must have an updated understanding of this workforce in particular and trends affecting it. Such decisions are best not made in a vacuum and data from this workforce study would complement and be complemented by other recent efforts (such as the Family Child Care Task Force and the Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force) to improve the overall quality, stability, and viability of our state's mixed delivery ECE system.

MCCA shares the great urgency of supporting early educators across the ECE landscape, particularly those working in child care, the ECE setting least able to provide better compensation and benefits. The study funded by HF 4278 would bring more clarity to the questions of how we move forward not only to support but to grow the ECE workforce, with all the greater community economic health that entails.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare J. Sanford".

Clare Sanford
Chair, Government Relations, Minnesota Child Care Association