



April 6, 2021

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 Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3), we wish to thank you and the committee for your thoughtful leadership in preparing HF 2230. We also wish to acknowledge the importance of having an early childhood budget in the Minnesota House of Representatives. This represents an important accomplishment and recognizes the needs families with young children.

While we support much of the bill, we are particularly grateful for the following key policies because they help address inequities in access for Minnesota's youngest children and families.

1. Establishing support and funding for Family, Friend and Neighbor providers and increasing the rates for legal, nonlicensed family child care providers from 68 to 90%
2. Increasing CCAP reimbursement rates to 50th percentile of most recent survey and reprioritization of families on Basic Sliding Fee list.
3. Expanding access for inclusive child care for children with disabilities.
4. Supporting federally designated tribal HeadStart program with state funds
5. Expanding early learning scholarships to children 0-3.
6. Continuing grants to child care providers with federal funding.
7. Increasing funding for Parent Child +program.

We look forward to working with you as you finalize this bill. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our support, please contact our Policy and Legislative Affairs Director, Deb Fitzpatrick at dfitzpatrick@childrensdefense.org or Coalition Coordinator, Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn at Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com.

Thank you,

Bharti Wahi,
Children's Defense Fund
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative
Co-Chair