



Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Children and Families Finance & Policy Committee
503 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 22, 2023

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Start Early Funders Coalition, we express our support for HF 2451, to provide a grant to the Great Twin Cities United Way to support the 80X3 initiative to build trauma-sensitive care in early childhood settings. Our vision as a Coalition is that every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success. Our coalition is committed to advancing racial equity in our early childhood systems and advocating for policies that will benefit low-income children, rural children and families as well as Black, Indigenous and children of color and their families; and the programs that serve them.

The Greater Twin Cities United Way is a recognized leader and advocate in the field of early childhood care and education and has a track record of success activating systemic change and implementing practices that advance the field. The 80X3 initiative is meeting a critical gap in the early childhood professional development ecosystem. The initiative is building a two generational approach with families, early childhood educators and children to identify and build the trauma-informed region in early childhood. Through a community of practice, the initiative focuses on establishing organizational culture and structure that prioritizes provider supports while building trauma-focused, culturally responsive policies and procedures. HF 2451 recognizes the critical work of the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the 80X3 initiative and the impact it has on children and families across the Twin Cities. As aligned funders of the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the programs it supports we know that investment in these programs is necessary to support children and family wellbeing. This public private partnership is key to the organization's ongoing success.

We support a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to a continuum of high-quality child care and early learning programs. We must maintain and continue to grow equitable investments in critical early childhood programs based on ongoing community feedback and guidance.

Sincerely,

Carrie Zelin
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Start Early Funder
Coalition Coordinator

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