

# LEAD & CARE

Association of Family Child Care Professionals



## Partnering with Providers, Supporting Family Child Care Businesses

PO Box 1136  
January 27, 2025

Prior Lake, MN 55372

507-330-3110

RE: HF003 (Nash) Legislative auditor required to submit a report to the legislature related to an agency's implementation of internal control or fiscal management recommendations.

Mister Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 27 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Lead & Care, the 501c3 statewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers.

I am testifying on behalf of Lead & Care in **support of HF003**, which requires a report, therefore follow-up regarding implementation of OLA reports.

February 2024 there was an OLA report released regarding the states support to county delegated programs. Licensed Family Childcare is one such unfunded delegated program. Oversight is funded by county taxes including licensers and other staff.

Family Child Care is critical to the care of children and support of families in Minnesota. The industry is in a crisis with the loss of programs, over recent years. This loss is felt across the state in particular greater Minnesota.

The system is poorly communicated and supported by the state as shown in comments in the OLA report. <https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2024/DHS-licensing-sum.htm>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LD56jCiHl0&t=38s>. This poor communication leads to Programs under stress and potentially closing due to inconsistencies in licensing and programs uncertain of rules and regulations to follow.

DHS has recently stated that they have worked on some of the other delegated program areas, but not with licensed Family Child Care.

The state invests time and money in the OLA, and they have done great work in this audit. It should not be money wasted but needs to be acted upon to help stabilize family child care.

To be successful we need DHS to implement recommendations made and a required report of actions might be the message that leads them to improve.

Thank you, Rep Nash, for bringing this bill forward which can assist in ensuring that recommendations are acted upon, not set aside by an agency. Currently, our request is being dismissed.

Cyndi Cunningham, Lead & Care Public Policy Chairperson, [Publicpolicy@leadandcaremn.org](mailto:Publicpolicy@leadandcaremn.org)