



Senator Eric Pratt
Chair, Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy
Room G-23 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 28, 2022

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Start Early Funders Coalition, we express our support for SF 3986 to support a workforce development study before your committee. 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 benefit Black, Indigenous and other children of color, their families and the programs that serve them.

The early childhood workforce is instrumental in providing quality early childhood care and education to children, however they do not receive the needed supports and resources to thrive in the profession. We know a stable, well-compensated, trained and educated early childhood workforce is needed in order for children to reach their full potential. High quality early childhood care and education requires a well-compensated, educated and trained workforce and we believe when early childhood care and education professionals are supported and resourced – children thrive. A workforce study as proposed in SF 3986 will provide critical data highlighting wages, income and benefits in the industry and allow us to focus support and investment addressing the issues that will have the largest impact to solve the most pressing early childhood workforce issues.

The Start Early Funders Coalition supports a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to a continuum of high-quality early care and education programs. Early childhood providers have always been critical to the quality of early childhood care and education, and the Covid19 pandemic has demonstrated just how dependent we are on the “workforce behind the workforce.” We must maintain and continue to grow investments in critical early childhood programs based on ongoing research, community feedback and guidance.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carrie Zelin Johnson".

Carrie Zelin Johnson
Start Early Funders Coalition Coordinator
Start Early Funders Coalition

The Start Early Funders Coalition for Children and Minnesota's Future is a collaboration of more than 15 members of Minnesota's philanthropic community. The Coalition provides critical leadership and funding for research, program development, public policy and grant making to improve early childhood efforts in Minnesota. We are working together to ensure every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success.