

February 19, 2023

Senator Steve A. Cwodzinski Chair, Health and Human Services Committee 1200 Minnesota Senate Building Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting urges you to support SF 1240 to increase funding for early childhood family education programs (ECFE) to sufficiently staff and support these universally offered education programs found in every county of Minnesota. We believe this public effort to invest in caregivers and young children will support the parent-child attachment that all development and growth is stipulated on.

ECFE is informed by evidence-based research that shows early childhood programs are most effective in supporting families when they involve both caregivers and their young children. In addition to the classroom style education opportunities, some ECFE programs offer family home visiting where families can learn where they are most comfortable. These individualized programs are proven to improve school readiness and increase the parents' involvement in their child's care. This is done by tailoring the curriculum to meet the needs of each community and by supporting the parent-child bond, the first learning environment all future mental, emotional and physical development is founded on.

Please join the Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting in supporting SF 1240 to support early childhood family education programs to the promote growth and development of Minnesota's youngest generation, and positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

Thank you,

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting Projects Coordinator Cati Gómez Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting Policy Associate