



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 Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is excited to support SF 1240, to fund early childhood family education programs (ECFE) for all Minnesotans and to support and sustain the work of family educators around the state of Minnesota. Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a voluntary program for pregnant people and all families with children between the ages of birth to kindergarten enrollment and works with families to empower caregivers and support the growth and development of young children in Minnesota.

Research shows that over 80% of the brain is developed in the first three years of life. Parents are their baby's first teachers and the bond between them determines the young child's brain development and all future cognitive, physical, and emotional learning. ECFE is rooted in this idea and works to strengthen families and enhance the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of their children by using evidence-informed practices and individualizing the curriculum to address the local needs of the community and families in the state of Minnesota.

Please join the Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) in supporting SF 1240 to fund Early Childhood Family Education programs (ECFE) and ensure this state funded program has the resources and staff needed to support Minnesota's youngest children and their families.

Thank you,

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Funds-MN,
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator