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April 12, 2023

Dear Senator Wiklund,

I am writing to thank you for including Family, Friend and Neighbor policy and funding in your HHS budget bill. This work has been extremely helpful in allowing the YCB to work with FFN caregivers. Currently we have a group of Somali caregivers who meet regularly in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. These caregivers are learning about best practice, early literacy and many other child development topics. We also work in neighborhoods in North Minneapolis, and in the Powderhorn neighborhood.

I also ask that you please include ongoing funding in your final bill for this critical work.

The communities we serve need a sustainable commitment for ongoing training and resources.

Sincerely,

Deby Ziesmer

Deby Ziesmer
Early Childhood Director
Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board