



February 21, 2023

Senator Mary Kunesh
Chair, Education Finance Committee
1150 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesh and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is excited to write in support of SF 1276 to increase funding for the Early Learning Scholarships Program. The PN-3 Coalition supports significant investment in early childhood initiatives to support healthy growth, development and learning to positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity. We believe public investment in Early Learning Scholarships is integral to increasing access to high-quality early childhood programs for Minnesota's youngest children and stabilizing families in these early years.

Early Learning Scholarships empower parents and caregivers to decide what is best for their family's unique situation by bridging funding gaps for low-income families to access quality early education and care programs and improve school readiness in populations with the highest needs. Scholarships provide flexibility and predictability to families, allowing them to focus on supporting their families' economic viability in the future.

The PN-3 Coalition believes all young children and families in Minnesota should have a strong start in life, regardless of income level. Please join us in supporting SF 1276 to ensure more children have access to the care and learning programs they need to be successful in school and in life.

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