



The mission of Safe Passage for Children is to strengthen the Minnesota child welfare system so children are safe and reach their full potential.

February 21, 2023

To: Senate Education Finance Committee

Dear Senators:

I am reaching out to support SF 1276. As a child advocacy organization we have supported early learning scholarship since 2010 because these opportunities have been demonstrated in 'gold standard' research studies to reduce the incidence of child maltreatment and re-entry into the child protection system by as much as 50%.

Early learning scholarships are one of the best tools to prevent entry into child protection. They are particularly helpful in neglect cases because they provide infants and toddlers the stimulation they need for normal brain development, while at the same time providing support for parents and making it more possible to children to remain in the biological homes.

There could not be a better investment in families and children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rich Gehrman
Executive Director
Safe Passage for Children of Minnesota