

March 8, 2023

Senator Mary K. Kunesh Chair, Education Finance Committee 120 MN State Capitol Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesh and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Coalition for Family Home Visiting (MCFHV) writes in support of SF 2097, to fund the ParentChild+, and evidence-based home visiting program, to support school readiness and prepare children for a lifetime of learning. The MCFHV is excited to see significant support for the healthy growth and development of Minnesota's youngest children and supports this investment in their education and future. We believe supporting a broad coalition of evidence-based programs and models will increase our ability to meet the unique needs of families across all stages of their child's development.

ParentChild+ is an early intervention home visiting program, proven to increase school readiness and produce a significant return on investment. Children who receive these services are 50% less likely to need special education services by third grade and graduate high school at higher rates than their peers. ParentChild+ home visiting promotes equity by providing age-appropriate educational books and toys for children and supports non-English speaking home visitors to work with families in culturally and linguistically responsive ways.

The Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting urges you to support SF 2097 to address academic disparities in Minnesota and ensure all children have the opportunity to a strong start on their academic journey.

Thank you,

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