



To: Senator Mary Kunesh, Chair, & Senate Education Finance Committee Members

From: Minnesota Association for Family & Early Education (MNAFEE) representing
Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Subject: **SF1240**

Date: March 28, 2023

Chair Kunesh & Committee Members, thank you for the inclusion of SF1240 in the Senate Education Omnibus bill. We stand in gratitude for your willingness to provide legislative support for Minnesota families.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) has provided parenting support and education to Minnesota families for nearly 50 years. We offer a space for parents of young children (birth-kindergarten entrance) to develop parenting skills, build a foundation for parent-child interaction, and create relationships with other parents in their community. We also serve as the family's first interaction with their local school system, creating a lasting connection for lifelong learning. We pride ourselves on the diversified services that we provide in a universal access program while establishing strong family engagement that begins at birth and continues on through a student's educational journey.

With two full-time positions and an operating budget at the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), we will be able to increase the number of families that benefit from ECFE services. These positions will provide vital supports including professional development for current educators, working with higher education institutions to strengthen the workforce, outreach and marketing that will reach more families, and strengthening collaborative relationships with local partners. Continuing to provide high quality home visiting services will be another strong focus of support at the department.

As we look ahead to the next biennium and beyond, we are confident that ECFE will continue to partner with families in creating a solid foundation for their children, enhanced by strong leadership support at MDE.

Thank you for supporting ECFE through the inclusion of SF1240 in the Omnibus bill.

MNAFEE Advocacy Committee Members
Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education