



Minnesota Child Care Provider
Information Network

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January 24, 2022

SF53

Madam Chair Sen Wiklund and Committee members

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 26 years and am currently the Public Policy Chairperson for Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN), a 501c3 sitewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers.

I am writing on behalf of MCCPIN members in support of SF53.

The pandemic has amplified what was already known. The Child Care Industry is in crisis. Licensed Family Child Care (LFCC) specifically has taken a hard hit.

LFCC's have been said to be the most stable, culturally responsive setting for families. We are a small group setting which was perfect, and is in so many ways, for handling COVID-19 illness. We knew who walked in our doors, the health of the families, and with close relationships were able to limit exposures and outbreaks.

However, with all of these amazing facts, LFCC's numbers have more than been cut in half over the past few years. Investments have helped LFCCs hold on through the tide of financial instability.

The legislative action that set these Stabilization grants to be reduced was shocking. \$430 is already a small amount of money to attempt to 'hold on' with. Anything less is an insult and a statement of lack of support for providers.

Having this investment brought back to at minimum what it was when implemented is a statement of support from the legislators that they value our work and want us to hold on a bit longer.

Higher investments in Early Learning Scholarships & the Basic Sliding Fee send the same message to the parents and providers. Parents have needed this support; the wait lists are too long. Providers benefit from these increases as they can more easily partner with parents to utilize these spending options.

Please pass SF53

Cyndi Cunningham

The mission of the Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN) is to support, promote and strengthen the profession of licensed family child care, thereby enriching the lives of providers, children, families and communities.

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