



February 21, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund  
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee  
1100 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) writes in support of SF 1680, which provides state funding for family, friends, and neighbor (FFN) care. Approximately 40% of infants and toddlers and 25% of children ages 3–5-years old were cared for by FFN providers in Minnesota in 2016. Families with children who have special needs, low-income families, immigrant and refugee families, single-parents, parents working non-traditional hours and families in rural communities often access family, friends and neighbors to help care for their babies and young children because licensed family care or center care is out of reach financially or geographically. Additionally, there are other families that believe family, friends and neighbors can offer important quality care and learning environments that support their cultural or religious values that are not as available in other settings.

During the pandemic, Minnesota dedicated \$3 million in one-time federal CRSSA funding to support FFN providers access educational resources and provide access to training for providers focused on increasing quality of care to those providing care. These time limited resources provide critical resources to providers who don't always have access to learning and educational materials or know how to access learning on child safety and safe sleep.

We believe all Minnesota families deserve access to quality care and early learning experiences regardless of their caregiver or provider. SF 1680 provides access to important health, safety, nutrition, and educational resources to FFN providers and helps ensure infants and young children across Minnesota are getting the best care possible.

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