



Minnesota Child Care Provider  
Information Network  
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March 7, 2023

RE: SF2398 – Department of Children, Youth & Families

Madam Chair 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 the current 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 to support SF2398 establishing a Department of Children, Youth & Families.

Minnesota has a history of having many programs which do a great job of supporting children & families. The expansions made this session will increase the number of MN citizens eligible to participate in these programs.

Unfortunately, the programs are disjointed, in multiple agencies and implementation is even more complicated.

**Navigating the government system in its current structure presents a barrier for both families and providers to access the programs.**

For example:

Licensed Family Child Care providers have a difficult time coordinating programs such as CCAP & ELS so are less likely to accommodate families using these services. Thereby limiting care options.

Referring families to services is made even more complicated due to the lack of coordinated oversight and an ability to 'know where to go' to get services.

DHS/state staff are doing a great job of providing their programs services but even they have barriers to refer to appropriate departments as they are outside of their experience.

Establishing a department which can have all of these programs under one roof will assist in removing these barriers for accessing programs for both those needing services and those referring/supporting these clients.

Thank you for hearing this bill and we ask that you support the bill to better serve citizens of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Cunningham