



March 6, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee
1100 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 2398, to establish a Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The PN-3 Coalition is excited to see significant investments in Minnesota's youngest children, their families, and their caregivers. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy growth, development and learning will positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

The PN-3 Coalition believes that quality investment in young children and families includes establishing the infrastructure and system needed to support public services and programs. This will not only ease the burden on other state agencies facing capacity issues but provide families in Minnesota with a holistic opportunity to create a full-service care continuum that supports families and their children from birth through their most critical developmental years.

The establishment of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families will strengthen and assist families by allowing children and their caregivers to use programs and receive services designed for children and their families. Please join us in elevating and addressing the needs of children and families by creating this agency intended to invest in youth, improve coordination between family-serving programs and improve access to critical resources. Please join us in supporting SF 2398 to improve the effectiveness of existing services to improve the outcomes of all families regardless of race, zip code or income.

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