



March 14, 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 2229, to modify child care assistance eligibility and co-payment requirements and simplify the system parents access for support of their young children. We believe public investment in the child care assistance is integral to increasing access to high-quality early childhood programs for Minnesota's youngest children and stabilizing families in these early years. The PN-3 Coalition is excited to see significant investment in early childhood to support healthy growth, development and learning to positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

SF 2229 invests in child care assistance to empower parents and caregivers to focus on supporting their families' long-term economic viability by providing predictable and affordable child care rates. By capping child care co-payment rates at 7% of the family's gross income, you will help bridge funding gaps for low-income families to access quality early education and care programs to improve school readiness in populations with the highest needs.

The PN-3 Coalition believes all young children and families in Minnesota should have a Great Start in life, regardless of income level. Please support SF 2229 to ensure more children have access to the care and learning programs they need to be successful in school and in life.

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