

February 22, 2023

Senate Jobs and Economic Development Chair Bobby Joe Champion Minnesota Senate Building, 3401 95 University Ave West Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Champion and members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) appreciates the opportunity to offer our letter of support for SF1610, SF1611 and SF1612 on behalf of our nearly 30,000 farm families, and thanks Senator Putnam for bringing these bills forward.

Minnesota's rural communities continue to face adversity through lack of childcare availability, creating barriers to Minnesotans who wish to make rural areas their home. The rural childcare shortage is a leading factor holding back rural Minnesota from moving forward economically. Without adequate childcare, many working parents have to choose between staying home to care for their children or maintaining a professional career, and some are forced to move to areas where childcare can be secured.

We have heard over and over from our membership, families are struggling to secure childcare and families who provide childcare and are constantly having to turn away families in need.

Senator Putnam's bills help address the lack of resources in our rural communities by allowing them opportunities to create and maintain viable childcare access. Minnesota Farm Bureau appreciates his leadership on this issue and asks for your support.

Sincerely,

Dan Glessing

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