



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

February 21, 2023

Senator Bobby Joe Champion  
3401 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Champion and members of the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee:

The Southern Minnesota Initiative commits to continued success in creating more child care slots through our continuous efforts in supporting Early Childhood in our region. Last year we helped create over 370 slots and several potential slots through our programming.

We focus our time on relationships with early educators aiding, best practice, and resources to help their programs flourish, we meet with this group monthly.

We continue to distribute well over 21,000 early reader books to children in our communities along with over \$600,000 yearly for early education grants to support programming.

We have trained over 1,000 early childhood professionals and continue to provide a variety of trainings in other languages such as Spanish, virtual sessions, and in-person classes.

We are committed to making early childhood a priority in our region and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Coulter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Coulter  
Early Childhood Project Manager