

April 4, 2024

Members of the Education Finance Committee:

As members of the Nourish MN coalition, we are pleased to offer support for SF 3790 (Hauschild), a bill to authorize the disclosure of tax return information for purposes of verifying eligibility for early childcare and learning programs and appropriating money to support these programs.

We know that Minnesotans' health and wellbeing is often connected to their ability to afford basic needs like housing, healthcare, food, and transportation. That is why the Nourish MN coalition, which advocates for policies that would provide greater economic security for more Minnesotans, is supporting this legislation. With the costs of daily life rising and pandemic-era financial supports long expired, we believe the state should build on the investments from last year and continue the work of making life more affordable for our neighbors.

Minnesotans with young children often face the difficult choice of whether or not to put their children in an accredited childcare facility. Families with young children face a steep benefits cut-off 'cliff' which prohibits many of our youngest Minnesotans from obtaining a head-start in their education and social skills. Faced with the financial burden of childcare, many parents make the decision to leave the workforce – ultimately sacrificing their career and financial growth as well as hindering their local economy.

Innovation in service is possible but we must act quickly to support our neighbors in need. On behalf of our organizations and many we represent and serve – as well as the countless Minnesotans whose health and wellbeing would improve thanks to this legislation – we encourage your strong support for SF 3790.

Sincerely,

