

LEAD & CARE

Association of Family Child Care Professionals



Partnering with Providers, Supporting Family Child Care Businesses

PO Box 1136

Prior Lake, MN 55372

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March 26, 2024

RE: [S.F. 4341 Kupec](#) Child care services grants appropriation for staff training

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 26 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Lead & Care (rebranded Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network, MCCPIN), a 501c3 sitewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers.

I am testifying on behalf of Lead & Care in **support of SF4341** which provides funding for providers to reach the professional level of a CDA.

Family Child Care programs have a wide variety of educational backgrounds. Many with higher education (i.e. AA, BA, master's etc.), however there are many who do not have those degrees.

There is a strong push for licensed programs to have such degrees/education.

However, working full-time, managing a business, a family and limited funds, a provider without such degrees has a difficult time obtaining this higher ed.

The CDA is a viable, quality, and recognizable credential which can assist providers to reach levels of expertise which will serve them and clients/children well.

With increased expectations of higher education/training in the child care field, limited funds, and time for licensed programs to obtain these standards, the financial support to obtain a CDA is critical.

Thank you to Sen Kupec and others for bringing this bill forward.

Cyndi Cunningham

Lead & Care Public Policy Chairperson