



March 26, 2024

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund  
Chair, Health & Human Services  
Minnesota Senate

Dear Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs representing seventeen YMCA Associations throughout our great state would like to submit this letter of support for **SF 4341** authored by Kupec, Mitchell, Hauschild, Boldon - the child care services grants appropriation for staff training.

Quality child care programs require qualified and trained teachers. SF 4341 will provide resources to ensure that child care providers in Minnesota are trained to deliver quality child care programs and to ensure that Minnesotans have the best day care experience. We hear from our YMCA Daycare Centers that staff development is one of the biggest challenges besides funding needs for wages in our work to retain quality staff.

The YMCA is one of largest nonprofit provider of childcare in Minnesota. Over 2000 children per day attend early childhood YMCA programs throughout the state. All YMCA locations including Alexandria, Austin, Brainerd, Duluth, Grand Marias, Grand Rapids, Lakeville, Mankato, Red Wing, Rochester, Spicer and Willmar, would benefit from having grants available for staff training. MN Alliance of YMCAs understand the importance of having quality teachers in the classroom across the state and this bill will help with teacher retention and delivery of quality child care.

The Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs encourage you and the committee to approve SF4341, this important child care services grants appropriation for staff training.

Sincerely,

David Dominick  
Director of Public Policy  
Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs  
1761 University Avenue West  
Saint Paul, MN 55104