



**MINNESOTA HEAD START ASSOCIATION**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1987



May 6, 2025

Dear Chair Pappas and Members of the Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Head Start Association, I am writing to express our strong support for SF2802, legislation to appropriate \$3 million in bond proceeds for Early Childhood Facilities Grants. These critical investments help ensure that Minnesota's youngest learners have safe, high-quality environments in which to learn and grow.

While we understand the committee target is challenging, we urge the committee to consider appropriating these funds using cash instead of bonding proceeds. Doing so would allow tribal Head Start and early childhood programs to be eligible for these grants, as current bonding restrictions limit their access.

Lastly, we encourage you to consider including the Governor's recommendation to reduce the required local match from 50% to 25%. This important change would remove a significant barrier for many communities that struggle to meet the current match requirement, especially in rural, low-income, and tribal areas.

Investing in early childhood infrastructure is not only a wise use of public funds—it's an investment in Minnesota's future. We respectfully ask for your leadership in ensuring this legislation is funded and accessible to all communities who need it most.

Thank you for your commitment to Minnesota's children and families.

Sincerely,

Kraig Gratke  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Head Start Association