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April 8, 2025

Senator Mary Kunesch
Chair, Senate Education Finance Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg. Room 3209
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kunesch and members of the Senate Education Finance Committee,

I would like to express my profound gratitude to you and the Senate Education Finance Committee for funding the MacPhail **Learning With Music** bill in the last biennium. Also, thank you for hearing the bill in committee on March 4, 2025.

The Learning With Music is a vital program supporting the **education and development of our youngest children** and focuses on the children living in poverty. All of the early childhood centers participating in Learning With Music are located in low-income neighborhoods. **Over 90% of the students participating are living below the poverty threshold.** As our early childhood partners have testified frequently, this game-changing opportunity for their students through Learning With Music would not be possible without funding from the state.

The Learning With Music program is an in-classroom activity for children 2-5 years and **is a proven, evidence-based program.** A **three-year longitudinal study** of Learning With Music found a **150% greater improvement in inhibitory control**, a critical Executive Functioning skill amongst preschoolers. (These results were published in the *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*)

I'm writing today to ask for your help and support to include the Learning With Music bill (SF 110) in the E-12 Education Finance Omnibus bill.

Sincerely,



Paul Babcock
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