



May 20, 2025

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Health & Human Services Committee
Senate Building | Room 1100
SF1013/HF1002: Funding for HeadStart

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

The Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is writing to express our support for continued and increased funding for Head Start programs in Minnesota, as introduced through SF1013/HF1002. Head Start plays a critical role in providing children—especially those from low-income families—with high-quality early education, comprehensive health services, and family support to build a strong foundation for academic achievement, social-emotional development, and long-term well-being.

In Minnesota, Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide high-quality early childhood education, developmental screenings, and family engagement opportunities that set children on a path to success. Head Start's commitment to culturally responsive learning environments and parent engagement aligns closely with the values and needs of Minnesota families.

Head Start is a key workforce support, allowing parents to pursue employment and education while ensuring their children are in safe, enriching learning environments. The program strengthens Minnesota's early childhood workforce—nearly a quarter of staff are current or former parents, providing meaningful career pathways in early care and education.

As Minnesota continues to face challenges in early childhood education access and affordability, robust federal funding for Head Start is more important than ever. We urge you to prioritize Head Start funding in the upcoming appropriations process to ensure that every eligible child in our state has access to these transformative services.

Thank You,

Alisha Porter,
Children's Defense Funds-MN, State Director
MN Prenatal to Three Coalition, Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator

Nancy Jost,
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Alexandra Fitzsimmons,
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