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Dear Lawmakers,

I am writing in support of H.F. 470 and S.F. 1049 a bill to maintain the current level of funding in the Early Learning Scholarship program. I urge your support.

Avivo has been a staple in the Minnesota nonprofit community for over 60 years. We provide services such as substance use disorder treatment, employment services, career services, mental health services, and provide housing and support for the unhoused population. I specifically work in the Substance use treatment center as the Service Area Director. Many of our women are able to attend our treatment groups and work on their recovery and receive other supports because of funding like this that helps their children be involved in programs during the day. Even though we have families that are taking advantage of the funding in place, it is not enough. We continue to have families wait for support and grant support so they can attend daycare and work toward gathering the tools they need to start their educational journey. The children that are able to participate in early learning programs learn so many things both educationally and socially, helping them be successful as they reach school age.

While the state faces a difficult budget outlook, the requested investment is small when compared to the help it gives not only the children and families that benefit directly but our communities and economy as well. Again, I urge you all to support H.F. 470 and S.F. 1049 for the well-being of the families in our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
Kristen Bewley