



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 1049** authored by Maye Quade, Boldon, Hauschild, Abeler, and Kupec - appropriation for early learning scholarships.

The YMCA is the largest nonprofit provider of childcare in Minnesota. Over 2,000 children per day attend early childhood YMCA programs throughout the state. MN Alliance of YMCAs understand the importance of providing quality and affordable daycare for families. We understand that when families have access to affordable childcare, it allows parents to participate in the workforce, boosting the state's economy.

Childcare is crucial in Minnesota because it supports families' economic stability, enabling parents to work or pursue education and ensuring children receive the best quality care and are prepared for school. Early learning scholarships will provide resources to ensure that families can enroll and gain access to quality care. The communities we serve rely on early learning scholarships and a funding cliff will severely impact our economies and the populations we serve. Minnesota's economy loses \$2.1 billion annually due to the childcare challenges.

The Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs encourage you and the committee to approve SF 1049, this important childcare appropriation for early learning scholarships.

Sincerely,

David Dominick
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