



May 18, 2025

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Health & Human Services Committee
Senate Building | Room 1100
SF1049/HF470: Funding for Early Learning Scholarships

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) represents a diverse group of stakeholders supporting policies and programs aimed at ensuring infants, toddlers and families have the best start in life regardless of income, geography, or race.

On behalf of the Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3), we urge you to support SF1049/HF470, which will provide essential funding for early learning scholarships to ensure Minnesota's youngest learners—especially those with the highest needs—have equitable access to high-quality early education and care. These scholarships are a proven strategy to help families afford quality child care, strengthening early development and lifelong success. By removing barriers to access, SF1049/HF470 will give more Minnesotan children the strong start they deserve.

The research is clear: early learning opportunities set the foundation for success in school and beyond. Investments in early education not only benefit children and families but also support Minnesota's workforce and economy. When families can access affordable, high-quality child care, parents can remain in the workforce, and our communities grow stronger.

We urge the committee to support the passage of SF1049/HF470 and make funding for early learning scholarships a top priority.

Thank You,

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

Nancy Jost,
Retired Early Childhood Advisor,
MN Prenatal to Three Coalition, Co-Chair

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

Alexandra Fitzsimmons,
Children's Defense Fund-MN,
Senior Policy Director