

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Health and Human Services
March 20, 2025
Senate File 1049

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Business Partnership is comprised of over 100 CEOs and senior executives leading Minnesota's largest companies. Our members are united by the mission of enhancing Minnesota's economic competitiveness and ensuring Minnesota has a future-ready workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SF 1049. The MBP is a strong supporter of Early Learning Scholarships and the legislature must take action in 2025 to ensure continued funding. Minnesota faces an urgent child care crisis that affects parents, providers, employers, and, most importantly, our littlest learners.

The cost of quality child care is increasingly out of reach for many families, leaving parents struggling to find reliable and enriching environments for their children. This childcare crisis extends beyond families and providers—Minnesota's employers are facing a worker shortage, which is exacerbated by parents who cannot find the child care they need to return to work.

Early Learning Scholarships address these pressing issues head-on, and they empower families to access high-quality early education programs. The scholarships offer stability to child care providers and reward quality improvements, ensuring that children receive the best possible early learning experiences.

Thank you for prioritizing funding for Early Learning Scholarships in 2025, ensuring that our state's child care and early learning investments are administered efficiently, with a focus on high-quality standards. The future of Minnesota's children, families, workforce, and economy depend on it.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Abby M. Loesch'.

Abby Loesch
Education and Workforce Policy Director
Minnesota Business Partnership