

LEAD & CARE

Association of Family Child Care Professionals



Partnering with Providers, Supporting Family Child Care Businesses

Leadandcaremn.org

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March 20, 2025

RE: SF1897 (**Sen Kupec**) Child care improvement grant program appropriation.

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 27 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Lead & Care, a 501c3 statewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers.

I am testifying on behalf of Lead & Care in **support of SF1897** which provides additional funding for child care facilities.

We are grateful for the inclusion of Licensed Family Child Care in these grants. Family Child Care has historically been left out of facilities improvements as our homes are frequently our facility. Our facilities experience the same amount of wear and tear as any stand apart program. Little bodies can make a big impact on buildings.

The past rounds of facility improvements have supported family child care providers to ensure that their programs are safe, meet licensing standards, and are appealing to clients. Not just attractive, but well maintained.

Many providers have expressed the perspective that they can consider staying in this industry as the wear and tear on their structures can be mitigated.

With the narrow profit margins frequently referred to by legislators, etc. there obviously isn't extra to accomplish the repairs and upgrades needed to continue providing care.

This funding is critical to support Family Child Care programs to stay current and in business.

Thank you to Sen Kupec and others for bringing this bill forward.

Cyndi Cunningham

Lead & Care Public Policy Chairperson

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