



March 25, 2025

Dear Members of the Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Think Small's mission is to advance quality care and education of children in their crucial early years. Our vision is to close gaps by ensuring every child is kindergarten ready. This aligns closely with the importance of maintaining and improving child care quality across Minnesota.

Quality child care is fundamentally built on a strong licensing foundation. However, the current licensing system is imposing a significant "time tax" on providers, diverting their energy from their primary responsibility: supporting children's development. The regulatory complexity, with hundreds of pages of rules and laws, creates an administrative burden that detracts from the essential work of nurturing our youngest learners.

The family child care modernization project, while well-intentioned, has been a trying process for providers. The significant concerns and feedback from the provider community in response to the initial draft demonstrates the need for a more measured approach. Many providers fear that the outcome of the process could result in closures, exacerbating the already critical shortage of affordable, quality child care options for Minnesota families.

The proposed delay in SF1232 would allow for a more collaborative and thoughtful revision of licensing standards. It would give providers, who are the experts in their field, more time to contribute their insights and ensure that any new regulations truly enhance child safety without imposing undue burdens.

By taking this step back, we can work towards a licensing system that truly supports quality child care without overburdening providers or risking the closure of essential family child care homes. This aligns with Think Small's strategic vision of increasing access to quality early care and education programs to meet the needs of Minnesota families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cisa Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cisa" being more prominent than the last name "Keller".

Cisa Keller  
President and CEO