

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



**Minnesota Chapter of the
American Academy of
Pediatrics**

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March 26, 2025

Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave West
St Paul, MN 55103

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on aspects of SF 2705, the Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

Our chapter is strongly supportive of greater investments into the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. These are the best kinds of investments the legislature can make to set the next generation of Minnesotans up for a bright and successful future.

MNAAP is supportive of continued or increased investments outlined in Article 4 into support grant programs, child care development grants, children and community service grants, and early learning grants to support cognitive and brain development in children. Many of these investments focus on our youngest Minnesotans. Birth to age 5 are the most critical years for a child's intellectual, emotional and social development. Children require safe environments, responsive relationships, and appropriate nutrition to improve lifelong outcomes in learning and health. The MNAAP supports funding in SF 2705 to provide Minnesota families the opportunity to help their child develop during the critical first 5 years of life and help prepare the child to be successful not only in school but in life.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on SF 2705.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Smentek".

Katie Smentek, MD
President, Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics