

April 8, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of Kids Count on Us, Lead & Care, the Minnesota Child Care Association (MCCA), and Think Small, we are writing to thank the committee for the inclusion of critical provisions related to child care licensing in the omnibus budget bill and to urge their adoption. These provisions will provide immediate regulatory relief to licensed family child care programs and licensed child care centers. These measures are essential to addressing the challenges faced by child care providers across Minnesota and ensuring a sustainable system that supports children, families, and providers alike.

Specifically, we appreciate the inclusion of the following provisions:

- Article 20 Section 2 Reconsideration of correction orders
- Article 20 Section 4 Posting licensing actions on department website
- Article 20 Section 81 Family child care regulation modernization

While the enactment of the above listed provisions would be significant, we feel the bill would be strengthened with the inclusion of SF2135DE1 Sections 1 and 3-6. We also know that these changes fall far short of addressing the full scope of the challenges in our current system. We recognize that transformative change is long overdue, and we are committed to working together and collaboratively with legislators during the interim to build upon the progress initiated by Senators Hauschild and Bolden in their comprehensive regulatory and quality assurance reform proposal (SF2135DE1 Section 2).

We invite you to join us in this critical work as we strive to develop a system that meets the needs of Minnesota's children, families, and providers. Thank you for your attention to these critically important issues. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you throughout this legislative session and beyond.

Sincerely,

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