

LEAD & CARE

Association of Family Child Care Professionals



Partnering with Providers, Supporting Family Child Care Businesses

Leadandcaremn.org

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April 9, 2025

RE: Senate Omnibus Bill scs2669a-6.pdf

Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider (FCC) 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 regarding the following sections of the Senate Omnibus bill.

473.1 (d) The commissioner must not publicly post the correction order for licensed childcare

This provision allows programs time to evaluate reconsideration options prior to public posting allowing for complete and transparent information.

473.27 Sec. 4. [142B.181] POSTING LICENSING ACTIONS ON DEPARTMENT

This step is a critical point in ensuring that programs have a fair and just due process regarding licensing actions. Programs must be held accountable for wrong actions; however, the letters are accusations and case building by the agency. These letters are not helpful to the public as typically actions are being taken against the program. A summary of a licensing action is comparable to the current correction order summary which serves the public interest. Details of the case are available through the county or the state agency upon request so are still public.

485.3 Sec. 81. FAMILY CHILD CARE REGULATION MODERNIZATION.

The provisions included in this section bring current expectations for the Modernization project into law. The public final product being due December 1, 2025, ensures that the public including legislators and all programs have ample time to review the final product, support common agreements and create alternative legislation. Including translations is imperative to ensure that all minority/non-English speakers in these programs have equitable access to the rules which they will need to comply with.

St Cloud Preschool public/private funded:

Lead & Care is not supportive of this type of setting, receiving financing outside of the already established public funding through the schools and creatively found private funding. Showing results? Sure. However, without a mixed delivery approach, this type of program is what is

depleting and complicating the Family Child Care industry as it pulls children into those settings. The goal of reaching into 3yearolds (as stated in the hearing) will cause an even greater childcare crisis. There are VPK and other school funding (public) which are available. Private programs such as FCC & Centers cannot compete with the public tax funded programs.

This funding stream sets a dangerous precedence for childcare with school-based pre-k receiving even more public funding.

Facilities Grants

This program has been incredibly successful with in-home family childcare and would be beneficial to continue with additional funding. Historically, funding has not been available for the wear and tear, not to mention the need for critical improvements. Yes, these are our homes, but they are used by many as we provide care for families and their children.

Thank you for your time and investment in the state's children, families and those provider care.

Cyndi Cunningham, Lead & Care Public Policy Chairperson, 651-470-4857