



Minnesota Child Care Provider
Information Network
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Prior Lake, MN 55372
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www.mccpin.org

March 17, 2022

Re: HF4133

Mister Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 24 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN), a 501c3 sitewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers.

I am writing on behalf of MCCPIN to support HF4133.

The pandemic has brought us all to our knees in so many ways. The cracks in the system of childcare have widened and many have realized the necessity of having child care so that others can work.

What has held childcare together to be able to provide care has been the financial supports of grants.

For these grants to be cut in half in a few months will lessen these supports. \$430 is already not enough to support a Licensed Family Child Care program, \$215 does even less. MCCPIN is asking that this funding be continued at least at the minimum current level, not be reduced.

We are asking that there also be a critical evaluation of the structure of the grants. The flat 1FTE=\$430 is not an accurate nor equitable distribution to effectively stabilize the industries.

There are distinctions between the programs being supported which merit differences in funding.

The Federal guidelines stated to support Licensed Family Child Care at a significant level and this flat rate does not reflect that support.

- Licensed Family Child Care (LFCC) typically will only receive 1 FTE as a sole proprietor
- LFCCs serve many more children than 1 FTE in a center
- LFCCs are working consistently closer to 50 hours directly with children, 32 hours for a center staff is significantly less for the compensation
- Certified Center staff are not on an equal structure with licensed programs and funding needs to be re-evaluated, these programs are not held to the same standards and cannot participate in quality ratings. A 16-year-old as an FTE is not equal to a licensed program provider. Centers and FCCs can not have anyone under 18 provide care unsupervised.

We are open to discussion with the author and others involved to come to a compromise in the structure of these grants.

The grants are greatly appreciated and have the potential to make a difference in the industry to ensure that there are care settings for children.

Sincerely,
Cyndi Cunningham