

# A GREAT START FOR EVERY CHILD

To Minnesota Policymakers:

We are writing to express our strong support for H.F. 1, the Great Start for All Minnesota Children Act.

While each signer of this letter may not agree with every word of the bill, we collectively believe it is a strong, thoughtful, and comprehensive action plan on which we can build. Specifically, we're very supportive of:

- » **Improving prenatal care** to address racial and ethnic disparities in access and utilization of services and ensure all Minnesota children get a healthy start to life.
- » **Enhancing and expanding home visiting programs** to provide coaching and customized support to parents of Minnesota's most vulnerable children at a critically important time of life.
- » **Expanding Early Learning Scholarships and CCAP** (Child Care Assistance Program) to help tens of thousands of low-income Minnesota children age three and under who can't afford quality early learning programs.
- » **Investing in child care start-up grants** to help address quality child care shortages.

Though other constructive legislative proposals that will benefit Minnesota's youngest children and their families will be brought forward, we endorse the bold direction of H.F. 1. We strongly encourage leaders in the House, Senate, and Walz-Flanagan Administration to work together in a bipartisan way to enact a comprehensive plan, like H.F. 1, that will help the children who are most adversely impacted by the troubling disparities that plague our state. Closing gaps in opportunity will ensure all children are prepared to succeed in school and life and will save Minnesota taxpayers billions of dollars over the long-term.

**Most importantly, we urge the Legislature and Walz-Flanagan Administration to adequately fund these early childhood programs, so that their benefits can be realized by Minnesota children, families, and communities.** If you cannot find a way to dedicate sufficient funding for every child, we encourage you to prioritize the funding to first support children in low-income families, those most likely to be impacted by our current lack of equity.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of Minnesota's most vulnerable children. Please let us know how we can best support your efforts.

Sincerely,

