



Office of
**Governor Tim Walz &
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan**

Dear child care providers:

We wanted to send you a brief note to just say – **thank you**. On behalf of the state of Minnesota, our families and our communities, thank *you*.

You have been on the front lines since the beginning of this pandemic - coming to work every single day and risking virus exposure to care for and educate our youngest Minnesotans and respond to community needs. Our hospitals and emergency responders need your services. And you have continued to step up to the task. We see you and we are grateful.

As the Governor said during his speech to Minnesotans Wednesday night, “when this is all said and done, and the stories of this one hundred year pandemic are written, there will be heroic stories written about child care providers, who did everything they could to make sure that first responders, make sure that front line workers, and sure that so many of us had a place of safety, well-being, and growth in the middle of a pandemic.”

You are the backbone for families, workers, and our kids who depend on your education, care, and support. And your efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have meant that we don’t see evidence of child care as a place of widespread transmission. Although we know you are impacted by increased cases and transmission in the community, the data from the last 28 days indicate that only 2 percent of our child care programs have had 5 or more cases.

That said, your safety, that of your staff and families is important. And you are not required to stay open and you should always make the best decision for your health and the health of your teams and families. Take care of yourself. Your long-term commitment to child care and early education is critical to our response and it is also critical to our long-term economy. We need you.

And in case you wish to pass on this letter to families in your care, I want to say –

Parents and families, Please thank your providers. They are heroes on the frontlines of our COVID-19 response. Support them through their public health compliance, quarantines, and other strategies to adapt care and business practices to continue their work. They have been hit hard by this pandemic. They are heroes and they need your and all of our support.

Thank you,

Tim Walz, Governor

Peggy Flanagan, Lt. Governor