

Fund Child Care

Dear Minnesota State Legislators,

As you make important decisions at the end of the legislative session, we urge you to take action on the child care crisis. Parents, providers, and children cannot wait until next year.

The current consequences of underfunding are already dire. They include:

- Closed programs and fewer slots. During the pandemic, about 25% of Minnesota Child Care programs closed. This exacerbates an already existing shortage.
- Staff shortages. As of March 1, 2022, there were more than 2,500 open child care jobs posted on Indeed.com. It is extremely challenging to maintain qualified staff right now, let alone find new early childhood educators.
- Parents unable to work. Many families around the state struggle to find child care and therefore cannot go to work themselves.

As you consider solutions to these issues, it is essential to prioritize quality. We've started to see the effects of the achievement gap widening in the wake of the pandemic. But we don't know the full extent of the impact yet. Investing now in young children during the period of rapid brain development will help mitigate negative effects of the pandemic and will help prepare children for success in school and life.

Minnesotans cannot wait another year. Federal funds have helped keep the industry afloat, but they will end. If funding for the early childhood workforce and families is not increased, it's likely more programs will close. By next session the child care landscape will be even worse.

That means fewer people working, fewer children in high-quality settings to prepare them for kindergarten, and fewer communities able to thrive economically. By taking action now, we can have a better chance at sustaining a successful recovery around the state.

Please keep these priorities in mind as you make decisions about investments.

- Start early
- Center children and families
- Support the early care and education workforce

Thank you for your service and dedication to our state. You have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the present and future lives of Minnesotans. Please act now to ensure the prosperity of our state.

Sincerely,

Abdirahim Abdalla
Minneapolis

Melissa Akerson
Willmar

Ada Alden
Minneapolis

Penny Allen
Hamel

Brigid Alseth
Minneapolis

Patience Anderson
Saint Paul

Abdoulaye Ba
Burnsville

Jacqueline Bailey
Minneapolis

Katrina Baird
Rosemount

Dennine Beasley
Hutchinson

Ray Beers II
Minneapolis

Beth Beltz
Inver Grove Heights

Diederich Betty Deerwood	Janet Blackstad Mound	Amy Boeckermann South Saint Paul	Rachel Boettcher Saint Paul
Jamie Bonczyk Minneapolis	Kerry Bosu Saint Paul	Sara Boyea Cottage Grove	Elizabeth Brandt Saint Paul
Sue Brenna South Saint Paul	Sherlyn Brown Russell	Marissa Brown Rochester	Jamie Bruns Worthington
Jillian Burch Minneapolis	Toni Burns Raymond	Benjamin Campbell Minneapolis	Helen Carlson Minneapolis
Kristie Chaffee Minneapolis	Heather Charmoli Shakopee	Nathan Chomilo Minneapolis	Tess Christensen Moose Lake
Dante Cicchetti Saint Paul	Mary Ann Cogelow Minneapolis	Alixandra Colehour Minnetonka	Kari Cooper Bemidji
Allison Corrado Minneapolis	Jan Creed Big Lake	Terri Cribb Minneapolis	Elizabeth Criswell Minneapolis
John Cuningham Minneapolis	Megan Dahlberg Saint Paul	Kathy Darrow South Saint Paul	Terri Davis Minneapolis
Christine Devitt Hopkins	Dina diamanti Bigelow	Alexandra Dickison Champlin	Dale Dobrin Hopkins
Melissa Donovan Lindstrom	Pam Duffy Worthington	Ethan Duffy Worthington	Andre Dukes Minneapolis
Mary Dukuly Saint Paul	William Dunkley Excelsior	Chad Dunkley Long Lake	Sue Dunkley Excelsior
julie eddy Savage	Julie Ellefson Minneapolis	Joanne Esser Saint Paul	Sarah Falck Circle Pines
Becky Faust Goze Minneapolis	Laurie Fillman Duluth	Nicole Flick Dilworth	Benay Flink Circle Pines
Deb Flynn Minneapolis	Malissa Foster South Saint Paul	Vincent Frazier Saint Paul	Lee Friedman Minneapolis
Kris Gabel Shakopee	Michelle Gerlach Champlin	Cami Gilsvik Saint Paul	Katie Glaser Minneapolis
Fallon Gleason Minneapolis	Brooks Goldade Hopkins	Tammy Graffunder Wayzata	Sarah Gresch Saint Paul
Jennifer Griskevicius Minneapolis	Katie Gunderson Roseau	Nancy Hafner Willmar	Heidi Hagel Braid Maple Grove
cathy hagstrom Minneapolis	Sue Halligan Stillwater	Heidi Hansen Circle Pines	william harwell Minneapolis
Bud Hayden Excelsior	Tiffany Heaver Saint Paul	Elizabeth Heidenreich Minneapolis	Nancy Hernandez Circle Pines
Michelle Herzog Jordan	Kaia Hoiseth Farmington	Michelle Hoover Circle Pines	Anne Huber Saint Paul

Marie Huey Minneapolis	Karen Huey Eden Prairie	Marlene Jehnke Rochester	Lisa Johnson Saint Paul
Desiree Johnson Minneapolis	Robbin Johnson Wayzata	Nancy Johnson Minneapolis	Meredith Johnson Minneapolis
Nancy Jost Fergus Falls	Andrea Jourdain Saint Paul	Cisa Keller Saint Paul	Gayle Kelly Duluth
Kellie Kimmes Hastings	Kate Knowles Minneapolis	ellen knox lakevile	Cheryl Kottke Saint Paul
Jane Kretzmann Minneapolis	Brittni Kuehl Red Wing	Sue Kunzer Circle Pines	Janet Labrecque Hopkins
Laura LaCroix Dalluhn Saint Paul	Heather Lane Minnetonka	Adam Langenfeld Champlin	Margorie Lapinski Saint Paul
Janelle Larson Watertown	Molly Larson Duluth	Joanne Larson Eden Prairie	Jamie Le Worthington
Katie Luhmann Rochester	Tanisha Lungelow Minneapolis	Barbara Luxford Maple Grove	Marcella Lynch Saint Paul
Pam M Duffy Worthington	Pam M Duffy Worthington	Beth Magistad Saint Paul	Tina Malvig Saint Paul
Laurence Margolis Minnetonka	Heidi May Circle Pines	Denise Mayotte Minneapolis	Diane McCormack Duluth
Nicole Meehan Minneapolis	Helen Meissner Blaine	Mary Meland Minneapolis	Sheryl Mitchell Shakopee
Lynn Moore St Paul	Stephanie Moss Saint Paul	Ruwaida Motala Woodbury	Alissa Movern Minneapolis
Ryan Mulso Minneapolis	Tracie Myers Saint Paul	Christian Nagel Minneapolis	Diana Neidecker Saint Paul
Michelle Ness Minneapolis	Wendy Nielsen Saint Paul	Missy Okeson Roseau	Ruth Olkon Saint Paul
Mary Olsen Cokato	Katie Ormond Minneapolis	Rita Palashewski Lakeville	Michelle Palo Minneapolis
Danielle Pascoe Shakopee	Kari Penas Moorhead	Tangela Peters Saint Paul	Sheryl Peters Fairfax
Kathy Peterson Forest Lake	Felecia Peterson Cottage Grove	Charisse Pickron Minneapolis	Allison Pudlitzke Rochester
Colleen Pywell Saint Paul	Cori Quinn Minneapolis	Tonya Radel Minneapolis	Kay Randall Moorhead
Lynn Rantanen Warroad	Rinal Ray Minneapolis	Amanda Reker Saint Paul	Amanda Reker Saint Paul
Christine Retkwa Minneapolis	Abby Reynolds Saint Paul	Gwen Rhubee Windom	Catherine Richards Saint Paul

Katherine Robertson Saint Paul	Melissa Robinson Andover	Andrea Roethke Minneapolis	Kelli Rohrer Moorhead
Art Rolnick Minneapolis	Diane Rosana Lake Elmo	Jaylon Rosenblum Minneapolis	Mary Rotter Detroit Lakes
Eric Rotter Detroit Lakes	Rochelle Rubin Minneapolis	Donna Russell Lake Elmo	Clare Sanford Minneapolis
ManaRae Schaan Saint Paul	Amanda Schillinger Burnsville	Sara Schlueter Minneapolis	Colleen Schmidt Minneapolis
Lois Scudder Minneapolis	Fred Senn Minneapolis	MaryBeth Settergren Minneapolis	Sam Shanda Circle Pines
Roger Sheldon Minneapolis	Lois Sheppard Saint Paul	Robin Siebenaler Hastings	Eidan Silver Minnesota
Andrea Singh Saint Paul	Tanya Skogerboe Hopkins	Amy Sonbuchner Minneapolis	Anita Sperry Minneapolis
Halie Spessard Worthington	Darcy Spies Reading	Christine Spillers Saint Joseph	Brandy Sroga-Coons Elk River
Violet Stanton Minneapolis	Maria Steen Fergus Falls	Diane Steen-Hinderlie Minneapolis	Andrea Stern Minneapolis
Marie Strain Burnsville	Christy Strawn Saint Paul	Krishnan Subrahmanian Eden Prairie	Amy Susman-Stillman Minneapolis
Kim Swalboski Marshall	Janet Swanda tieden Minneapolis	stacy sweeney New Brighton	Sarah Swenson Minneapolis
Jacki Telstad Saint Paul	Debbie Teske Saint Paul	Melissa Thorson Maple Grove	Charlotte Todd Circle Pines
Bruce Todd Circle Pines	Christin Urbanski Saint Paul	Christina Valdez Rochester	Erica Valliant Saint Paul
Jackie Van Slooten Maple Grove	John Viacrucis Moorhead	Johanna Villa Minneapolis	Kafui Voumadi Saint Paul
Tammy Wachter Spicer	Amy Walstien Minneapolis	Katie Weber Saint Paul	Kent Wegmann Saint Paul
Karlyn Wegmann Saint Paul	Jamie Weigel Ogema	Thera Wiersma Cloquet	Kelsey Will Saint Paul
Sarah Williams Minneapolis	Katie Williams Wayzata	Shanda Yang Minneapolis	Shoa Yang Saint Paul
Barb Yates Saint Paul	Melissa York Saint Paul	Susan Zackery Saint Paul	Melissa Zelle Saint Paul
Deby Ziesmer Big Lake	Rozalyn Zuest Minneapolis		