



Support for SF4430
Minnesota House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
March 13, 2024

Dear Chair Rest and Committee Members,

I write today on behalf of the Minnesota Child Care Association, a statewide non-profit representing licensed child care centers. Our mission is to promote the success of licensed child care centers as an integral part of Minnesota's early education system. We serve as a voice for professional, high-quality child care that is affordable, accessible, and able to meet the diverse needs of Minnesota families. We are pleased to support HF4430.

Several states have recently turned to property tax relief as a way to support child care supply in their communities. This bill offering a 10% rebate on rent expenses would bring real savings to child care programs, as facilities-related costs are the largest expense after labor. Our members who would benefit have plenty of needs to address, and depending on the size of these savings are looking toward compensation adjustments, additional training and education for staff, and necessary upgrades to equipment and supplies.

I urge you to support SF4430, and to consider expanding such tax relief to all licensed child care facilities in future work. This bill will obviously be meaningful for non-profit child care centers, but the fact remains that the vast majority of child care in the United States, both centers and in-home and particularly smaller providers, operates on a for-profit model. This has nothing to do with viewing children as a profit center (child care operates on incredibly thin margins and with compensation nowhere near where we want it to be) and everything to do with our history of funding education as a public good once children enter elementary school, but leaving families, businesses, and communities on their own to figure out early care and education needs in the birth to 5 years.

If we really want to support the greater field, we need options like this available to all providers. This bill is a good first step.

Thank you,

Clare Sanford
Government Relations Chair
MN Child Care Association