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## **MLFCCA Position on SF6/HF57 Universal Preschool for all four-year olds.**

MLFCCA opposes Universal Preschool.

- Universal Preschool is a movement in direct conflict with research that continues to amplify the importance of early childhood play-based learning environments, like family child care, that support children's interests and natural curiosities with time to explore and experience learning at their individual pace and level of development.
- Universal Preschool does not address the need to fund research that specifically cites in what type of care setting the children who are not prepared for kindergarten have been in order to appropriately target funding.
- Based on the current adult-to-child ratio, Universal Preschool will significantly impact the sustainability of the licensed family child care profession, which has lost significant numbers of providers since 2011.
- Universal Preschool will force a market change that will negatively impact and create a financial burden for families seeking care for children birth to 3 as family child care programs will be forced to raise rates to earn a sustainable operating income.

*The mission of Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association is to support licensed family child care providers to achieve the highest standards of care for children in Minnesota's diverse licensed family child care homes and communities through education, resources, services, and advocacy.*

## Universal Preschool References

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