Emails directed to the House Education Innovation Committee

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Michele Haas and I live in Rosemount, Minnesota and I am a Daycare provider. I am opposed to Universal Preschool as child care is how I make a living and would greatly impact the state of home childcare. I believe it would impact families that need care for children birth to three as it would require me and most other providers to raise rates to earn a sustainable operating income. Therefore, I desire for them to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill

Thank You,

Michele Haas

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Loretta Eggert and I operate a high quality Licensed Family Child Care AND Preschool in Elk River, MN. I am highly opposed to HF46 and request that you oppose the bill in committee and please do not include it in the Omnibus bill.

My job is my passion & I love the families in my care and they love me! Passing this bill would remove preschoolers from my care and that would have a devastating impact on my business, my family and my well being.

PLEASE oppose HF46!!

Sincerely,

Loretta Eggert

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Anita Juntilla of Brooklyn Center. I am a licensed home daycare provider. I oppose HF46 and desire for you to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill. This bill would force daycares like mine out of business and/or force us to raise rates to make ends meet. Furthermore, it is not supported by research. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Anita Juntilla

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Mary Frances Halseth, Blaine, Minnesota and I am a licensed Child Care Provider for the last 11 years. I oppose HF46 and desire for them to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill.

I believe that family child care supports children’s interests and natural curiosities with time to explore and experience learning at their individual pace and level of development. I teach a preschool curriculum for my children who are of age 2 1/2 to age 5. I am completely satisfied with my teaching and am happy to report many school agers who have been at the top of their Kindergarten class and are reading before entering Kindergarten. I strongly believe a family childcare setting is the best for children, they get a better experience with the Provider/Teacher and get one on one when it comes to learning. They also need to be kids and not robots that are put in a classroom and forced to learn. Isn't 5 years old scary enough to be in all day everyday Kindergarten? Which is another issue I disagree with too.

Based on the current adult-to-child ratio, Universal Preschool will significantly impact the sustainability of the licensed family child care profession.

Universal Preschool will force a market change that will negatively impact and create a financial burden for families seeking care for children birth to three as family child care programs will be forced to raise rates to earn a sustainable operating income.

I feel this is an important issue that can't be ignored. Please Oppose this bill, and let the Licensed Child Care Providers Of Minnesota help prepare these Preschoolers for Kindergarten in a loving home setting.

Thank you for your time, let's see a good change for a better future for us Childcare providers who put love and time teaching our young children.

Sincerely,

Mary Frances Halseth

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

I am a licensed family child care provider and licensed elementary teacher living in Hastings, MN. I have been in the profession of educating children for over 20 years, and I strongly encourage you to oppose HF46!

This bill poses a huge threat to the livelihood and cost of the 9,000 plus family child care providers in our state and the children/families they serve. Children do not need more structured, push down to learn more at an earlier age, what they need is a caring environment where they can be curious, lifelong learners and play, socialize and explore their world without pressure or state mandates.

If the state offers free 4 year old preschool, providers will be forced to raise their rates significantly for birth-age 3 children to make up for the lost income and children. The cost of child care is already straining on parents of little ones, and this would cause an unnecessary strain on Minnesota’s families.

Sincerely,

Lori LaLonde

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Shirley Eide, and I have been providing licensed childcare in my home in Shakopee since 1978. I have recently received my Parent Aware Two Star Rating.

I want you to know that I strongly oppose HF 46/SF6 and urge you to oppose/kill this bill and not include it in the Omnibus bill.

If this would go through it would force me to either go out of business and try to find other employment, or raise rates significantly for infants, toddlers, two and three year-old children. I know that other providers who have dedicated their entire careers to providing in-home childcare would be in the same position. Over half the children I have right now would be gone. How will this impact the parents of younger children? Will they beable to afford quality childcare for them or even find such care?

I also strongly believe that this would not be in the best interest of most children in this age group. What next, universal school for three year-olds, then two year-olds? Where will it end. Let kids be kids please, they need to learn in differents ways than older children and we in the childcare profession can provide what they need.

Sincerely,

Shirley Eide

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to bill HF46.

I am a daycare provider in greater Minnesota. I have a degree in Elementary Education as well as a Masters in Elementary Classroom. I have been a daycare provider for over 10 years and would like to continue for many years but I am concerned that if this bill passes it would cause my business as well as many others to close. Daycare providers need four year olds to fill in their numbers to make a living. If we can't make a living we either raise our rates for the other ages or we close. Either way it may be detrimental to the work force as a whole. As you know there are many people who rely on daycare providers to care for their children in order for them to be able to work. If workers can't afford care or care isn't available because daycares are closing it affects everyone. Please don't let this bill slip through unnoticed, stop it before it affects Minnesota's workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Natalie Braegelmann

Morris, MN

Hello Carmen Mayo,

and to whom it may also concern,

I have been a MN. Licensed Family Childcare Provider for over 30 years.

All day free Kindergarten has greatly affected my business.

With the new changes my income has suffered, the States Provider to child ratios have not changed due to this I will never have full enrollment. If preschool for 4 year old children passed I would only have two choices. The first would be to close, which is something I have been diligently trying to avoid Second would be the need to greatly increase the weekly fees to cover my income loss. This is what ALL Licensed Family Childcare Providers in our state will face.

We are already up against unlicensed SAHM's (stay at home mom's) that supply daycare/evening/night care. This cheap non-regulated care is unsafe for our little ones with little action being taken to control their enrollment. Then parents would have Center care,

which is on average $100 to $150 dollars more per week then Licensed based home care.

Nothing is free. Taxes would have to increase to pay for this new program. Quality care will suffer, parents choices will be limited. So I am asking for you and others that are looking to make a wise decision to Please work with License Family Childcare Providers that make every effort to follow requirements and DO the job. Most of us help parents get their child ready for kindergarten. We teach and supervise play in a loving home environment that limits stress to child including helping parents parent. Long exposure to Institutional care for small children is not and never has been a good environment.

Please look into the back lash of what will change, and Who will pay in the long run... our Children.

Sincerely

Desiree' Rotter

Hugo Mn.

Washington County MN.

Hi, I am Chris Carrigan a family Child Care provider. I am opposed to the mandatory Preschool for 4 years olds. I work very hard and take many classes that the state already requires me to do. The state is requiring us to do a lot with the kids to get them ready for kindergarten. Some 4 year olds are just not ready for Preschool and get plenty of kindergarten readiness at their daycares. When do we allow kids to be kids?We are pushing them way to hard and at too early of an age. Some are ready but some are not. I believe this will have an adverse effect on some children. Also many Daycare providers have quit in the last year due to all of the rule changes and extra paperwork, this will also affect our business. When they started all day/everyday kindergarten that took a lot of kids out of daycares. If Daycare providers don't have the preschoolers what do we have? More will quit and there is already a shortage in our area. You are pushing for us to get 4 star ratings and everything else! For what to get infants ready for kindergarten because that's all we have left. Think about the kids, lets not push them any more than we already do. Let kids be kids, let the parents decide if it is right for their child!!!

Thank You,

Chris Carrigan

Family Child Care Provider

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Karen Anderson, I live in Fergus Falls Minnesota and I have been doing daycare in my home for over 35 years. I am writing you today to express my opposition to the HF46 Bill and my desire that you either oppose or kill the bill in committee and not include it in the omnibus bill. I have several reasons for making such a request:

First of all, Universal Preschool does not address the need to fund research that specifically shows in what type of care setting the children who are not prepared for kindergarten have been in in order to appropriately target funding. In my daycare as well as those of my colleagues we are well aware of what skills a child needs to be able to have a successful start when they enter kindergarten and work with each child to help insure that those skills are met. Because of our small child to adult ratio and the close relationships we have with the children we care for, we are able to work with each child to assess their abilities and work with them on an individual basis. For these reasons I do not believe that the children that have been identified in Universal Preschool research have come from home based licensed day care settings.

Secondly, because of the low Adult to Child ratio that daycare homes have Universal Preschool will significantly impact the sustainability of the license family childcare profession. We already took a big hit when all day kindergarten started, losing the ability to fill two of our “spots”. Losing all of our 4 year old children to Universal Preschool will inevitably make a dent in the number of children we will be caring for. If the losses get too plentiful there are many people that will not be able to continue offering daycare.

And finally, you may be thinking that I do not want the HF46 to pass because I will be adversely affected and my income will be reduced substantially which is a selfish reason. There is some truth to that but what I worry about more is how this bill will force a market change that will negatively impact and create a financial burden for families seeking daycare for children from birth to three years of age as family daycares will be forced to raise rates to earn a sustainable operating income. For example: I currently charge $24 a day for daycare with 7 children enrolled. If I were to lose the two 4 year olds I have, I would lose $48 a day. I can’t make enough money to run my business with just 5 children in care so I would either have to find another job, cross my fingers and pray really hard that two families with 3 year olds call me (because under licensing guidelines I already have my limit of children under 2) or I would raise my rates to $34 a day ( a 42% increase) just to continue to make the same amount of money I am currently making. I don’t want to quit my job and I’m sure my families don’t want me to quit, it is very unlikely that I will find the 3 year olds, so my rates would have to increase and the families would struggle to pay those rates.

In summary: It has been determined that children aren’t prepared for kindergarten. It has not been determined if these children are coming from licensed daycare homes, daycare centers, existing preschools, or if they are children that are cared for by family members, unlicensed daycares or by their parents. If they are from the later group of unlicensed care or parental/family care then money should be used to insure that those children are able to attend a preschool or headstart programs if they chose to. And then again, maybe we should respect the rights of parents who choose NOT to have their child attend a structured preschool because they believe that a child learns through play or that a child needs to have the chance to be a child. Maybe those parents are right, maybe it doesn’t really matter that their children aren’t prepared for kindergarten, because they don’t know how to do basic addition and can’t read when they enter kindergarten. Maybe it’s more important to them that their child to be a child or perhaps they think that greater life long lessons will be learned if they allow their children to be able to spend the first four years of their life just being a kid!

Sincerely,

Karen Anderson

Karen’s Kids Licensed Daycare

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My is Tabitha Zimmer from Sturgeon Lake and I’m a Head Start teacher in a home based center. I say no to HF46 and desire for them to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill. Little ones at this stage in life are not ready to leave the nest to be pulled into classroom settings.

Sincerely,

Tabitha Zimmer

Madam chair person

I am a Provider of 25 plus years from St Cloud MN. I have seen the government take over the parents rights to their children's In-Home-Care for years from what to eat-how to sleep, now how to take away their play and not to mention their surroundings of love and nurture. I have taken in many children who came from centers and who were over whelmed by centers. Big buildings -t oo loud - ratios and the turn over of very young staff who can't figure out themselves let alone a child and get to know them personally which is key and to know them on a day to day basis. I have had parents STOP their current 3-4 year old pre-school and bring them to my home because the kids were doing more in an IN-HOME- DAYCARE, than in a Pre-school.

Thank you Kristine

Dear madam,

I am writing in response to the proposal of 4 years olds going to school? The impact of this decision will ripple for generations. Most 4 year olds are not ready for such rigors or structure. These young children's will be intermingled with much older children and exposing them to ideas, behaviors and modeling that may not be in their best interests. Parents have a responsibility of raising children, which can be shared with a " daycare mom". Our teachers have enough to deal with in the classrooms. Then let us introduce the transportation issue of getting these 4 years olds to and from school. Would you want your 4 year old riding the bus with a 6 th grader? I, as a child care provider have first hand experience with special needs children and or children somewhere on the spectrum. The 7 year old in my care is a hazard for the bus driver, as this bus driver not only has to manage the roads and their various conditions, but also the emotional and often times anti social behaviors of the children he is merely driving to school.

Please, please, think about your options wisely, this is not the best for our future leaders, not the best for our currently overburdened teachers, and certainly is not in the best interest of those of us trying to make a difference in the lives of young children.

Thank you for you time

Sincerely,

Katie Moore

Way to grow family childcare

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regards to bill HF46. I am a daycare provider with my Masters in Education. I understand how important school is but I also understand that we are forgetting to give children a chance to be kids. Don't let this bill slide by unnoticed. Let's stop it so kids can stay in home like environments and allow play to be their work. And let's stop this bill to allow daycare providers to do their jobs without raising rates or closing their doors due to inefficient clients.

Thank you for your time,

Natalie Braegelmann

Morris, MN

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Nancy Swarthout from Kasson, MN. I am a Family child care provider.

I am against HF46 and wish that it not be included in the Omnibus bill and be killed and not go through in any way. This bill will take children from my child care and will make it hard for me to make a living. I already do a curriculum and the children in my care are learning and will be ready for kindergarten. With this bill I will lose those 4 year olds and thus my income. This bill will take away income to most providers and thus we will lose providers because they can’t make it on this reduced income. We already have our ups and downs as we do in this profession but if you add this bill it WILL make it worse. Many will stop doing in home family child care and many won’t even go into it knowing the hardship the bill has created. In turn we may end up with a shortage of providers and families may have a hard time finding quality care at all!

Instead of this bill you could help with grants, or incentives, to help in home providers to get education and provide a curriculum to the children in their care. Many providers are going through Parent Aware, as I am now, to help improve the quality of our child care. I am with a group of 8 ladies right now in 1 county improving their child care. There is more in our county too. This is just one of the groups that began the process in January. The quality of child care is increasing. When I started in home child care 19 years ago there were very few doing curriculums in there child care. That number has increased and continues to do so. It is standard for most parents interviewing to ask if we do a curriculum. Give us a chance and help us! Please don’t make it more difficult!

Sincerely,

Nancy Swarthout

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Lee Vang, I am a licensed provider in Rochester, MN. I oppose HF46 and ask that you kill the bill in the committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill.

This bill would make a huge negative impact on my business and I would more than likely have to close. Having all day preschool for 4 year olds would make me lose my preschoolers to public schooling. As a small business owner, I strive to make my home and business a high quality child care. I meet and exceed the required trainings each year. I run a loving, professional, and caring child care. My family and I have worked really hard to be where we are today with our business. We have built amazing relationships with families and children in our business. I do not want to lose those families.

I simply ask that you kill this bill in the committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

Lee Vang

Lil Stars Daycare

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:
As a child care provider, I have ready children for kindergarten for the past 18 years. I have never been told that the children that have gone through my daycare program are not ready for school.

Children learn so much through play, friends and socializing that I can not even believe that formal classroom setting would be an option for 4 year olds. We talk about all the children that are put on medications when they get to kindergarten because they can’t concentrate and they are antsy, what do you think will happen when younger children are put in the classroom. I think that we are becoming a medicated society and this situation will make that worse.

If this bill passes it will directly effect the cost of child care to the parents I serve. I am licensed for 6 under the age of 5 and if the 4 year olds are not an option I will be forced to raise my prices for the families with younger children so that I can make a wage to make this position worth it. With rising cost for families you are going to be forcing a parent that works to possibly stay home, apply for daycare assistance, or find unlicensed daycare options.

When do children just get to be children and advance at their own pace?

In closing I ask that you proceed with a no vote. Please do not lay this bill over or include it in the Omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

Pam Majerus

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee,

My name is Kristi Stenzel, I am a childcare provider in Minnesota Lake, (Faribault County). I have been providing childcare in my home for over 39 years. I am extremely opposed to HF46. I am urging you to oppose/kill this bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill.

I have an extreme passion for children and I offer a variety of learning experiences and a family oriented atmosphere that is at a level of individual pace and a level of development. Research has proven that play based learning environments is what is best for children of this age.

Universal Preschool will place a hardship on both childcare providers and the families seeking childcare in MN. There will be a lack in affordable childcare, a lack in quality childcare. I personally would be forced to raise my rates.

I am also very concerned about the stay at home mom or dad that honestly wants their child to have these years at home with them and give their child the quality and love only a mother or father can give. We are putting way too much stress on our children. Children at age four are suppose to play, use their imaginations, and honestly, Universal Preschool will not allow them to just be kids!! When we institutionalize children at such a young age we risk the potential of damage psychologically, emotionally and physically.

According to: [www.reasons.com/blog](http://www.reasons.com/blog) - Advocates argue that public investments in early education will pay dividends over the long term. But..."It has been shown that whatever benefits universal preschool programs that kids receive fades out by the fourth grade.". I have to ask each of you, is this fair to our children, is it feasible for the taxpayers, and is it justifiable?

Please Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee, I beg you to kill this bill HF46 for the sake of our children - if you truly care about them.

Sincerely,

Kristi Stenzel

Childcare Provider - MN Lake

My name is Sandy Heuer. I live in Silver Lake, MN. I am a self employed in home Daycare Provider in McLeod.

I VERY STRONGLY against the HF 46/ SF 6 and have the desire for the committee to oppose/ kill the bill in committee and not include it in the

Omnibus Bill.

It is very important for a child to have 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.

It should be a parents choice when and at what age to send their child to preschool. They should also be allowed to make the decision as to whether they even want to send their child to preschool. Some parents are happy with the daycare based daily preschool program that is being offered at no extra charge.

If this bill is passed and goes into effect, it will greatly impact many families. It will cause a financial burden for the families seeking care for children from birth to age 3, because daycare providers would be forced to raise their daycare rates to be able to earn a sustainable operating income. It is critical to the profession of daycare providers that this bill is not passed.

Yours truly

Sandra L Heuer

This bill is not good for our children in our country. No other country takes the children away from their families at 4 years old. Not all children are the same. Some children at the age of 4 still need naps and some don't. We are not giving children time to just be kids and learn by playing and inventing new things. We are trying to molded them into what the government thinks they should be or not. I love to watch little kids play and make things up out of what the find. This bill is not for the good of our children. Please don't pass this bill we are not China and parents have the right to raise their children to the age of 5 before sending them off to school. A lot of my parents are against this bill. Thank you for your time Karen Cobb

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

Hi my name is Kathy Ahoe I run a small child care site in Sandstone, MN and I've been in business for nearly 18 years.. I want to state this bill will impact me in a finacial hardship like you have never seen..it would not be worth me keeping my doors open for business for for a combination of 3 children under the age of 2 along with another possible 2 children at age 3...our community doesn't have those kinds of numbers in children who need child care.... the families I service are all on Child Care Assistance and those families need for provides to be able to take children of all ages during the day hours because I will tell you I am one in a few who do evening child care and over nights just to make ends meat..

I am asking you to kill this bill -- right now our school has taken away 4 yrs old for a 2 day all day preschool program already and we are hurting now because of it.. You will push many Child Care Professionals out of business with this bill and I can tell you from my experience there is no child care center that will make it up here were I live they have already tried and they went out of business..because of lack of enrollment..

Anyone wishing to talk to me personally may give me a call..

Sincerely,
Kathy Ahoe

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Diane DeMarais and I’ve been a family childcare provider for 30 years in Maple Grove, MN. I strongly oppose HF46 and adamantly request that this bill be killed in committee and not included in the Omnibus bill.

I strongly believe that children learn extremely well in quality early childhood play-based learning environments and that a school-based learning environment like Universal Preschool is not in the best interests of children, parents and family childcare providers. I continually receive praise from kindergarten teachers in my school district about how well-behaved, emotionally ready, and intellectually prepared the children from my childcare are. I truly believe that children thrive in early childhood play-based learning environments and that we should continue to focus on improving these learning environments rather than eliminating them for 4 year olds.

I believe that our state should continue to offer assistance to lower income families to ensure that their children are better prepared for kindergarten. Families who can afford preschool will continue to send their 4 year old children there if they choose. Providing free Universal Preschool to all families with 4 year olds is a waste of tax payer's money, it creates a hardship for both parents and family childcare providers of infants – 3 year olds, and research does not support the theory that only Universal Preschool will enhance kindergarten readiness.

Please kill HF46 and do not include it in the Omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

Diane DeMarais, Family Childcare Provider

Dear Madam Chair, and members of The Education and Innovation Policy Committee,

My Name is Terry Puro and I m a family childcare provider in Ham Lake MN.

I would like to state that I oppose the HF46 and would appriciate your consideration to oppose or kill the bill in committee. Please do not include it in the Omnibus bill. I strongly feel that all 4 year olds are not ready for preschool. Home childcare can provide the nurturing atmosphere and flexibility to meet each child individual development needs. This happens in small groups and with a consistent caregiver. It is not appropriate for all four year olds to be enrolled in all day/every day preschool. These are the tender early years of childhood when children should be allowed to discover their world on their terms., not in an institution!

I hope my thoughts are taken into consideration and that I will be represented.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Terry Puro

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Ariane Bromberg and I am a Family Child Care Provider in Olmsted County . I ask that you oppose/kill the HF46 bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill. I have been a child care provider for 19 years, in my professional knowledge, four year olds are not ready for a full day of a school setting. They still need play time, social time and with many of them needing a rest/nap time. Also, it would put a huge financial strain would put on the individual school districts.

Thank you,

Arinae Bromberg

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee

My name is Linda Christiansen. I live in St. Cloud, Mn. I am a in home Child Daycare Provider and have been a licensed provider for 11 years.

I am strongly against having 4 year old starting school at this age. Children need to be children and we are trying to make our children grow up to fast. At my daycare I teach my children yet the still have their free time. I have had pre school screeners ending up being top of the children being screened. At this age they want to work for shorter periods of time. By sending them to school we are not letting them have the freedom we had growing up at daycares like we did as children.

Also by taking these children from Daycare Providers you are now making it tuff for Daycare Providers to keep their jobs as we can only have so many children in our care and some of them are 4/5 year olds. You will be forcing providers to give up their jobs and have more people on unemployment. I love my job but I still have bills that need to be paid. By taking children away from my daycare the extra burden will be put on the parents already in the daycare to help make up for ones we loose.

I would strongly hope that you would kill the bill HF 46 in the committee and not include it in the Omnibus Bill.

Sincerely,

Linda Christiansen

Madam Chair and Members of Education Innovation Policy,

My name is Jackie Harrington. I am a licensed family child car provider in Rochester MN and have been providing high quality care and early education for 15 years. My program is a 4-Star Parent Aware rated program, play-based, and its curriculum is based on the interest of the children. (There are no apple, pumpkin, or arctic animal theme weeks here!)

I am writing today to urge you to opposed HF 46.

*I would like to offer 2 accounts from Moms of 2 of my recent graduates who are now attending kindergarten and 1st grade to illustrate the importance of supporting programs in meaningful ways and ALSO support children where they are, with programs that are developmentally appropriate.*

*Mom number 1, after 3 months of her daughter in kindergarten relays as she is picking up her son from care, "You know I probably never tell you enough how much you are appreciated, E is so over-prepared for kindergarten. Her teacher is so impressed with her and is finding it difficult to challenge her." Same Mom notes at pick up time the next year, about 3 months into first grade for her daughter, "You folks in early childhood really know what you are doing, you follow the lead of the child and learning is easy for them, its natural. Sure wish the school system had that figured out. I am asking the teacher for guidance on how to challenge E, and she looks at me like I am an overzealous parent. My child is asking me to be challenged at home, because it is not happening in school. She is stuck waiting for other children to catch up, and the teacher is not following her lead."* This make me tremendously sad for E. In childcare she was eager, intelligent and ready to learn. How frustrating for her to be in a place that doesn't recognize her potential and has her waiting to learn.

*Mom number 2, after 3 months of her daughter into kindergarten this year. "Whatever you are doing here, don't change a thing, cause N is reading at the top of her class, and in everything else!"*

N tells me proudly, *"I am the only one reading the blue level books."*

These kind of stories reaffirm that children need high quality early childhood programs, AND also illustrates that universal preschool would simply shift the children not prepared for kindergarten to one year early. How long would it be until we are hearing that xx% of children are not coming to 4 year old preschool prepared to learn!

This will obviously impact my business in a significant way, perhaps even ending my ability to care for children in my home. More importantly though, universal preschool falls short of addressing children who need specific support to be prepared for school. Investing in underfunded existing programs that support families, children and early childhood providers to meet the needs of the children that are arriving to kindergarten unprepared would be money that is better spent. Programs such as CCAP, National Accreditation for family childcare, The Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association Mentor Program, and Parent Aware. Parent Aware is a tool for providers to improve their programs and is relatively new in MN. It has hardly had a chance to prove its worth in supporting children's school readiness. After the massive amounts of money invested in this program, what would be the point of continuing investments there?

I urge you to OPPOSE this bill. Investments to support our youngest learners in developmentally appropriate settings should be directed to programs and support structures for families and those that build high quality care providers.

Sincerely,

--

***Jackie Harrington
First Five Years Family Child Care***

Dear Madam Chairperson and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Rebecca Weiss.

I have been a licensed childcare provider in Hennepin County for more than twenty years. I am writing to to encourage you to oppose the HF-46 bill and not include it in the omnibus bill on Tuesday. As a provider, I believe that the relationships that develop between a caregiver and child are crucial to the children's success in life. I think that Kindergarten is a minimum age for large group participation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Weiss

Dear madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee.

My name is Scott Klosner. I am a Silenced family daycare provider from Saint Paul, MN.

I am opposing Universal Preschool because;

1. If daycare providers have to drop a whole age group due to Universal Preschool, and only providing from birth to three years olds, it will create a financial burden on families, because daycare providers will have to raise rates to stay in business.

2. Universal Preschool is in direct conflict with research that shows the importance of early childhood play based environment Family childcare supports children's interests and curiosity and gives them time to explore and learn at their own time, pace, and level. Children get very personal family nurturing environment.

Thank you,

Scott Klosner

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Juliana Winter and I am a daycare provider in Sibley County. I am against the HF46 and would like all members to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill. The reason I am against this is that I feel that children are already being rushed and missing out on their childhood, to just be able to play. Not to mention how it will affect my family financially. Kids learn the best when they are playing, think back to your childhood and what you did. Would you want another year in school? Being told what to do all day long? I know I would not! Thinking about my own 2 little girls, I do NOT want them to go full time to school at the age of 4! That just seems ridiculous to me. I want them to be able to play and have fun as much as possible and this bill will NOT do that for them. I think we need to focus on the children that already go to school and how we can continue to help them instead of pushing them trough the system. If we have that much money that we are not sure about what to do with, lets put that money to help the kids already in school before we worry about the 4 year olds!

Sincerely,

Juliana Winter

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Commitee,

 My name is Robyn Olsen, I live in Maple Grove, Minnesota. I have been self employed, doing home day care for over ten years. I would like to see the HF 46 bill killed in commitee and not to be put through with the Ominus bill. I really don't think four year olds are ready to be put into a school setting. There are many who are NOT completely potty trained and emotionally they are also not ready. Half of our kindergarteners in this state are not ready for kindergarten. What would make any one think that a four year old is ready for a full time universal daycare is beyond me. With our already over flowing schools, I am not sure where these children are suppose to go.I have concerns for the cost for families of children under the age of four if this were to pass. In order for us daycare providers to compensate for the loss of four year olds in our care, the cost for those under four would have to be raised. Plus, this universal daycare really isn't "free". We will all be paying for it with our taxes. Please do our four year olds a favor and kill this bill!!! Thank you, Robyn Olsen

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee.

My name is Yelena Klosner Saint Paul , I am a family day care provider . The reasons I oppose Universal Preschool are.

Universal Universal preschool does not address the need to fund research that looks at what type of setting the kids are in that are not prepared for kindergarten.

2. It hurts small business . Based on the current adult to child ratio . Universal Preschool will dramatically impact the sustainability of the family child care profession . The number of providers since 2011 has dropped considerably . Licensed day care is important to all working family's .

3. If day care providers have to drop a whole age group due to Universal Preschool . Only accepting students from birth to 3 years old . It will create a financial burden on family's . Because daycare providers will have to raise rates to make ends meet.

4.Universal Preschool is in direct conflict with research that continues to show the importance of nearly childhood play based environment . Family childcare supports children's interests and curiosity and gives them time to explore and learn, at there own pace . And also provides a personal nurturing family environment .

Thank you

Yelena Klosner

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Kelly Martini. I live in Avon, MN and I have been doing daycare since 1999. I see there is a bill out there that helps children and families with preschool all day.

I am totally for children getting their education, and I think I do a pretty good job helping them get ready for Kindergarten. I do not have a preschool setting, since I do care in my house and have no money to turn my house into a preschool, but I do activities with the kids that get them ready for school. Not only I do that, but I also teach my children to be patient and wait for the bathroom, how to tie their shoes, how to zip their jackets, the simple things that every kid should learn.

I have been in the process of becoming a Star three through Parent Aware. I am a two star now, but getting my paperwork for a three. (which I thought was based on preschool activities, so my thoughts are why am I working so hard to do this when in a flash it will change everything and send the little ones to preschool instead of me.?)

With being an in home daycare, we are only allowed a certain amount of children in our care, not like centers, or schools. If this would pass this would cut our numbers back even more, which would cause a problem with daycare's that are full in numbers. I am a small daycare with only 8 kids, but I personally like it that way. I have a couple little ones that go to preschool already, one is there every day all day, so the only time I see her is when school is out, holidays that school is closed and not me, or snow days. (which is another issue upon itself, with parents finding care when school is closed.)

Please be aware of what this bill means for us and parents. There is more to children going to preschool every day, there are problems that no one really realizes until it's too late.

Sincerely,

Kelly Martini

Hello,
I am daycare provider for 34 years. I am against sending 4 years old to preschool all day. More daycare will close if you take they're 4 year olds from them. Sending them to preschool for free. I had to pay for my kids. People that can pay for it should. We are trillion dollars in the hole. We have to stop spending money to get out of the hole. Thanks for standing for the daycare provider.
Jone Anderson

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Lisa Fett, I am a daycare provider in Trimont, MN. HF46 would be very unfortunate for my job and for the children in my care. All day preschool would not be fair for them. I already see them struggle/get exhausted from All day Kindergarten. This would be very overwhelming for them and for their parents. My desire is to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fett

My name is Jody Miland. I am the owner/operator of Future Reflections Family Child Care in Sartell Minnesota. I have been providing quality childcare for the past 10 years.

I am writing today in regards to the bill you are trying to pass for all day everyday preschool at the age of 4 years.

I am going to be honest that many 5 year olds are very much struggling in an emotional level to start kindergarten all day everyday at the age of 5 years, let alone putting these young children out there to take that valuable time away to build on that key time to work on those valuable skills in a child care home setting. Play at that age of 4 years is serious learning for them and I strongly disagree they be put into serious academic stress. Let them have that extra time to build emotionally so they are strong when they hit those kindergarten doors.

When you say that this would help families financially I also strongly disagree, this is going to create major financial burden on many families because as in home providers we will be forced to significantly raise our rates on the birth to age three children. I have purposely not done a rate increase to my families since 2008 so they are able to afford good, quality care for their children where preschool is included in the price of their child's care here.

There is a parent aware rating system also in place where providers are becoming rated and getting kids ready to start school, this is federally funded, choices really need to be made about what money is going where. I think it is obvious to see this will NOT financially help families and will also make them struggle even more to find quality care in an ever fast dwindling industry.

Passing a bill like this will only help fund the school system and that to me is not truly thinking of the best interest of these children or their familes or all of the taxpayers impacted by this.

Sincerely,

Jody Miland

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Suzanne Stenbeck McCabe, and I am a licensed family child care provider in Bloomington. I am very concerned about how public all-day preschool will impact the **availability of quality child care** for all children ages infancy through 11 years old. I've operated a licensed day care in my home for 15 years and am finding it more difficult each year to make an income that can pay my bills. Until recently children typically came to me as infants and were in my care until they completed half-day kindergarten. Children in kindergarten left for school for roughly three hours and were in my day care the rest of the day. This past September two of my day care kids started full-day kindergarten and are with me only before and after school. The impact to me was a **loss of 60% of income** for each of these children. If I replaced that income by filling the two full-time spots that the kindergarten children vacated, I would no longer have room before and after school for my two in kindergarten. **I'm left with the harsh choice of either losing income or saying goodbye to children who have been in my care for years.** Should you pass a bill to provide all-day preschool through the public school system, **my income will be reduced by 60-100% for each four year old** who would otherwise be in my care all day.

You may see my arguments as self-focused and selfish, but you should know that **I represent a very important group of caregivers**. I represent the group of family child care providers who are **college educated**, who have **good business** and **communication skills**, who are **dedicated** and **passionate** about their profession, and **who operate the best day care businesses** among the choices available to families. Many of us have already given up big salaries in the corporate world in order to serve society in the ways that we do. If you continue to pass legislation that **reduces our pool of prospective clients** to only children ages 3 and younger, you will witness **another exodus of top-rated providers** who cannot make enough income to continue in the child care industry. Minnesota already has a shortage of care for infants and toddlers. Do you want to see the **availability of quality childcare be further diminished**?

Please **oppose this bill** now while it's in committee. Please **do not** **include** it in the Omnibus bill. This is too important to Minnesota families for you to just lump it in with other proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Stenbeck McCabe

Licensed Family Childcare Provider

I am Jill Weckwerth day care provider in Wells ,Mn. I think the preschool bill is wrong they are pushing our kids to fast the way it is .Let them be kids and learn the way kids should . they shouldn't be pushed to grow up so fast

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Holly Halvorson, I am a Daycare Provider in Sartell, MN. I write this email to you in opposition to HF46
and I urge you to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill.As a small business owner, this bill will greatly hurt my hardwork and dedication I provide to my child care families, as it will remove the children I care for, teach with our own cirriculum, and love. By passing this bill, it will take children out of my business and therefor my income that my family relies on. These young children need structure and a loving environment at this young age which is what they get in my home. An all day preschool program will be exhausting for their young bodies, take away their ability to play as a way of learning, and speeds them into a institutional classroom that they are not yet developmentally ready for. I am worried for the children who will get labeled and left behind simply because they just developmentally were not ready yet and their minds and bodies needed a little more time to grow and develop. Please consider a possible half day program which seems more realistic of expectation of these kids whose brains still need to grow and develop!

Sincerely,

Holly Halvorson

I m concerned about the universal preschool program. This is Peggy Francis from Mahnomen , mn. I own and run my business, Peggy's daycare.I have for over 30 years and do not feel that all day preshool is a good thing. Children need to be children and dont need be in a school setting at that age. Once they are in scool at age 5 they are in school for 13 years.This will effect child care providers as this is apart of our income. Also families will need care for their four year olds when school is out ,leaving not a place for them to be with their siblings. The rules and regulations this last year has caused alot of providers in area towns to quit already and this would only add to it.There is already a shortage of providers so this would make it only harder for families to find care.Why is everything about pushing children to grow up before their time and not about letting a child be a child?

I am a licensed, home childcare provider from Edina.

I am opposed to universal preschool in the school system for young children. the research that I have read indicated that children in this country are being pushed to read too early already without putting all 4 year olds into a classroom setting.

Research indicates that many children are better off in a play based environment where they can explore and learn at their own rates. The Family Childcare Programs that I know of (and my own) set up an environment that encourages learning through play.

I am afraid that many children will be turned off to learning if pushed too hard. This will not promote learning in the long run.

With the graduation rates experienced by the larger city school districts and the cost per pupil, I can see no advantages to this program.

This will however, greatly impact the real cost of daycare as more and more Family Childcare Providers close their doors.

Please study the impact of this move further before progressing

Please read and reread the information from Childcare providers concerning this issue.

Thank You

Susan S Johnson

family Childcare Provider

Edina, Mn

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Rochelle and I am from Holdingford. I am a Child Care Provider. I would like you to kill the HF46 bill in the committee and not include it in the Omnibus bill. Holdingford elementary has a School Readiness program that has been a great start for my children's education. I have a 4 year old that will be in the School Readiness program in fall. Preschool all day would be to much for him. He still needs his naps and enjoys being home. When my children started kindergarten they were super tired and my 4 year old would never handle being at school all day. I believe in a great education too but kids also need to be kids. They have many years of education ahead of them. If you would like more kids to be able to get into the School Readiness programs, offer to help get more classes and help with transportation. I am not saying this because of the effects this would be on my Child Care business, only because I am a caring mom and enjoy being home with my

children.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Skwira

My name is Melanie Lindeman. I have been a daycare provider for 8 years. I strongly disapprove of the HF 46 bill! It will ultimately significantly lower my income. More importantly I feel most 4 year olds are not ready for all day preschool. I strongly feel that all day preschool would have an adverse effect on these young children! Please do not pass this bill! More research needs to be done on this subject!

Sincerely,

Melanie Lindeman

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Sandy Jacobson from Ham Lake and I am a Licensed Childcare Provider. I would like to voice my opposition to HF 46. Universal preschool has a significant (negative) impact on our business of in home family childcare. Universal preschool is a movement in direct conflict with research that continues to amplify how important early childhood play-based learning environments are to young children. As an in home licensed childcare provider, we not only provide a learning environment but want and keep that "at home" atmosphere for our children and their parents. This being said, it does not even touch on the negative financial outcome this would produce for both providers as well as families seeking in home licensed childcare.

I am asking that you PLEASE oppose/kill the bill in committee and NOT include it in the Omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

Sandy Jacobson

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Education and Innovation Policy Committee:

My name is Brandon Hermanson. From Mankato MN and my occupation is Family Childcare provider. I as against HF46 and desire for them to oppose/kill the bill in committee and not includee it in the Omnibus bill. The reasons why are that this would make us have to increase our rate for the othter age groups in our just to make the business profitable. Another is that parents should have a choice if the want put their 4 year in preschool or not. Some preschoolers do better at home and/or in the family childcare system only to learn more of what they need to get ready for kindergarten. Lastly a lot of the family childcares are going through ready kindergarten training, Parent Aware Training, Degrees in Early childhood education and are position to teach these preschoolers everything they need to know to prepare them for Kindergarten.

Sincerely,
Brandon Hermanson
70 Marquette Ave North Mankato, MN 56003