



Representative Aisha Gomez  
Chair, Taxes Committee  
503 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 17, 2023

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Start Early Funders Coalition, we express our support for the Minnesota Child Tax Credit included in the House Omnibus bill. We are a coalition of funders with a shared vision that every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success. Our coalition is committed to supporting policies that will benefit low-income, rural and Black, Indigenous and children of color and their families; and the programs that serve them.

Raising children, and in particular raising very young children is extremely expensive. Child care is unaffordable to most families in Minnesota, with out of pocket costs reaching upwards of \$20,000 per year for a single child. Parents are forced to make difficult decisions to cover these costs, and many women in particular have chosen to leave the workforce specifically because of the cost of child care and having no alternative options to raise their children. As communities across the state look to worker shortages, and record low unemployment rates, we must think critically about how we support parents and caregivers of young children if they're choosing to work outside of the home. This is particularly important at a time when Minnesotans are at a breaking point as they struggle to keep up with the costs of every day life. The impact of living in poverty as a young child is life altering and has a dramatic impact on healthy brain development. The federal child tax credit, enacted during the pandemic, has now ended, made a notable impact on child poverty in the United States and the state Child Tax Credit will continue that impact for Minnesota children. We know it works!

We support a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to a continuum of programs and resources that will meet their individual needs. We must maintain and continue to grow equitable investments in critical programs based on ongoing community feedback and guidance.

Thank you,

Carrie Zelin  
Johnson  
Start Early Funder  
Coalition Coordinator

Allison Corrado  
Public Policy  
Committee

Denise Mayotte  
Public Policy  
Committee

Nancy Jost  
Public Policy  
Committee

The Start Early Funders Coalition for Children and Minnesota's Future is a collaboration of more than 15 members of Minnesota's philanthropic community. The Coalition provides critical leadership and funding for research, program development, public policy and grant making to improve early childhood efforts in Minnesota. We are working together to ensure every child in Minnesota is physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared for school and lifelong success.