



March 15, 2024

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee,

I'm contacting you today in support of HF367. I support this bill because we serve children that are too young to be fully vaccinated. We want to have every opportunity to protect the health safety of children in our care. This is especially important with the news of the recent measles outbreak in Minnesota. I appreciate this bill has the flexibility to have each child care center get to have the choice whether to prohibit a child over two months of age from enrolling or remaining enrolled in the center or program if the child isn't immunized solely due to non-medical reasons. Just because immunizations would be required at our center doesn't mean that is the right choice for all providers.

Thank you,

Lauren Welch Lofrumento  
Chief Operating Officer  
Children's Discovery Academy  
Little Canada and Vadnais Heights

March 16, 2024

Chair Pinto and Committee:

We are Doctors for Early Childhood, advocating for babies and toddlers and their families. We are 3 pediatricians and a Doctor of Education. We favor HF367 as a further step toward healthier children, families, and other caregivers. There are many reports of measles outbreaks, even in the US. Measles is not a mild childhood illness. Its vaccine was developed to prevent a severe form of measles-caused brain infection (encephalitis), which left victims permanently impaired if not dead.

The COVID 19 Pandemic disrupted usual avenues for childhood immunizations, leaving many children of all circumstances behind in their vaccines. Preventing the spread of Measles and other vaccine preventable diseases is so important and getting babies and children up to date will save lives, prevent impairments, and prevent the spread to others whose immune systems may not be as spry, or not yet complete in their vaccine series.

Childcare is not only part of Minnesota's economic engine, it provides healthy nurturing while parents are at work. This in turn helps parents establish for their babies and toddlers strong foundations which is the basis for early learning, school readiness, and success in life. Preventing the spread of illness in childcare settings is good for children, families, caregivers, and the wider community.

Please support this important legislation!

Sincerely,

Dale Dobrin, MD, FAAP

Ada Alden, EdD, and Parent Educator

Mary Meland, MD, FAAP

Roger Sheldon, MD, FAAP (Neonatology)

**Doctors for Early Childhood**



March 16, 2024

Dear Chair Pinto and Committee,

My name is Eagle Lee. I grew up in California but now call east St. Paul home, and I've worked in child care for 16 years. I am glad to support this bill, HF367.

My parents came to the USA in 1980 in search of more safety and opportunity for their children. My siblings and I were all vaccinated, and I haven't come across a Hmong family that chose not to get their child vaccinated due to cultural or religious beliefs. I think that a lot of the Hmong people I know get their child/ren vaccinated because there is reason behind it from a doctor's point of view, and they believe that the doctor is an expert in this field so they listen to them.

I believe that children should get the required vaccination to be protected in case there is a big outbreak, but every parent can make that choice for their own family. I think child care providers should also be able to choose policies to protect the very young ones in their care who cannot be vaccinated yet. I have no concerns about this bill for my community or for child care, because it is just giving providers the option, the same as parents have.

Thank you,

Eagle Lee  
Director  
New Horizon Academy Roseville  
3050 Centre Pointe Dr, Roseville, MN 55113

March 18, 2024

Dear House Children and Families Committee,

I am writing to ask for your support of Rep. Freiberg's bill (HF 367) giving individual child care providers the option to prohibit the enrollment of children who are undervaccinated due to their parent's personal preferences. My daughter Beatrix just turned one and received her first measles vaccine. With measles in the news lately, I am comforted that she now has some protection, because it is terrifying to think this increasing threat of dis/misinformation about vaccines could harm babies too young to be protected by anything but herd immunity. Our daycare center supports this legislation, and as a parent it would be a relief to know my children are as protected as they can be by their daycare community.

Sincerely,

Margaret Citta  
Saint Paul



To whom it may concern,

As childcare owners, we would like to offer our strong support to HF367. Why?

- We serve children under the age that can't be fully vaccinated. These children need our protection. Their parents expect them to be safe in our care.
- We had a child diagnosed with leukemia recently. He is only 3 years old. He deserves our protection.
- Recently, a measles outbreak was reported in nearby Dakota county. This is a potential life and death decision that an independent business needs to be able to handle in a way that allows them to safeguard the children in our care.

Additionally, this bill is fair. It does not mandate anything. It simply allows us flexibility, as a business that serves very young vulnerable children, to decide how to handle vaccinations. It allows businesses who want to require them to do so and it allows businesses who don't want to require them to do so.

In a time when it seems every issue has a winner and loser this bill produces only winners. Children can be protected from disease – ultimately the winner that most matters. Parents can choose a center that requires vaccinations giving them peace of mind. AND, parents who don't want to vaccinate also win as they can seek out a center that allows this exemption.

If this bill doesn't pass, two of the three groups above lose and only the parents who don't want to vaccinate win. That would be the very definition of unfair.

Please pass this bill. Thank you!

Aaron Amic and partners  
Plymouth, MN Goddard School  
Medina, MN Goddard School  
Minnetonka, MN Goddard School



**DATE:**

March 15th, 2024

**TO:**

Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee

**Subject:**

Letter of Support for Bill HF367

Dear Sir / Madam

I'm writing on behalf of my two child care centers in Dakota and Ramsey counties, respectively. As a licensed child care provider, I strongly support HF367; providers should be able to make their own policies regarding immunizations. Widespread vaccination reduces the transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases in childhood, thus has a great impact in childcare settings. Children that are not old enough, or those that lack the immune system to keep them safe from vaccine-preventable illness are unnecessarily put at-risk. While as a parent I understand the need for parental freedom in vaccine choice, as a business owner, I see an unacceptable level of risk in being forced to accept unvaccinated children. Dually, not supporting HF367 undermines my ability to decide what is best for my business, my clients and, due to a medical condition that suppresses my immune system, MYSELF.

Thank you for your time to read this letter in support of Bill HF367 for your consideration as you work on the important legislation before you.


**Regards,**

**Kristinah Dvorak**

Owner / Operator

 Owner@hourkidsmn.com

 612-239-0153

 1981 Silver Bell Rd. #1300  
Eagan, MN 55425

 2470 McKnight Rd. N #100  
North St. Paul, MN 55109

March 17, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

As the Director of Westwood Early Childhood Center, I would like to offer my strong support to HF367 which allows child care programs to use their best judgment when it comes to immunizations and the children in their care. This bill does not mandate anything. It simply allows businesses that serve very young children the flexibility to decide how to handle vaccines. In addition, parents still have a choice. They can choose a program that either requires or does not require vaccines.

Currently, most families at Westwood Early Childhood Center choose to follow the recommended vaccine schedule, therefore, our program likely will not make any policy changes. However, if this bill passes, we would have the opportunity to make changes in the future. Please pass this bill. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kellee Nelson  
Director, Westwood Early Childhood Center  
Westwood Lutheran Church  
St Louis, Park MN



## Kiddiegarten School of Maple Grove

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Maple Grove, MN 55311  
Tel: 763.951.2487  
Fax: 763.951.2285  
director@kiddiegarten.com

March 15, 2024

Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee

Subject: **Letter of Support for Bill SF610 and HF367**

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are a licensed Child Care Center and Montessori school operating for the past 7 years since June 2017 in Maple Grove.

As a licensed child care provider, I strongly support the bills SF610 and HF367 because providers should be able to make their own policies with regards to immunizations.

It is widely recognized that the children who are not vaccinated, can transmit vaccine-preventable diseases at child care centers. Unvaccinated children can infect babies who are too young to be fully immunized, and can also infect people of any age who can't be immunized for medical reasons, which includes children and adults with leukemia and other cancers, immune system problems, and people of all ages receiving treatments or medications that suppress their immune systems (See <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Immunization/Whatifyoudontimmunizeyourchild.pdf>)

Hence, it is not fair that child care centers are forced to take the risk by accepting those children who are not immunized due to non-medical reasons, **AND ALSO UNFAIRLY PASS ON SUCH RISKS TO THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THEY SERVE, WHO MAY NOT BE EVEN AWARE OF THIS RISK.**

Thank you for reading this letter of support, and we are hoping that this Bill get passed.

Please feel free to contact me, should you need any clarifications in this regard.

Sincerely,

**Naveen Aggarwal**

**Owner & Operations Director**

B.E. (Mech. Eng.), MBA, DBA Student (exp. 2024)

Cell: 612.615.4504



February 14, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kirsty Anderson and I own and run Little Rays of Sunshine Preschool and Childcare, a family child care business in Anoka county. I have been licensed for 6 years.

I do support the bill (HF367SF610). I think that everyone should have a choice regarding vaccinations and enrolling those who choose to be vaccinated or unvaccinated and not suffer any consequences for their choice.

Sincerely,

Kirsty Anderson  
10173 Raven St. NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

## Jack Dudley

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**From:** Jack Dudley  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:46 AM  
**To:** Jack Dudley  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Measles Information for Child Care Providers

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**From:** Minnesota Department of Health <mdh@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:36:27 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Measles Information for Child Care Providers



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## Measles Information for Child Care Providers

Hello Early Childhood Providers,

Last week the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) confirmed a case of measles in a 16-month-old, unvaccinated child in Dakota County. Since then, an unvaccinated sibling of the case has developed symptoms and tested positive for measles, bringing the count to two cases. Measles is a serious disease caused by a virus that is spread through the air. The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine protects people from measles disease and is one of the required vaccines for children who attend child care. The first dose of MMR is recommended for all children 12 months or older.

Measles can spread rapidly in a child care setting. Here are several steps that you can take to learn more about measles and prepare for a measles case in your child care:

1. Share this message with the leaders in your center(s).
2. Know the signs and symptoms of measles by reviewing [Measles \(Rubeola\)](#).
  1. If you have a suspected case of measles at your child care, report it to MDH by calling 651-201-5414 or 877-676-5414.
3. Review and refer to guidance provided in [Preparing for and Responding to Measles in Your Child Care \(PDF\)](#).

4. Reach out to families with children who are not in compliance with the MMR requirement. Those who have obtained an exemption for their children should be informed that their child could be excluded from child care for 21 days or longer if exposed to measles.

1. Enroll in the MIIC texting program for immunization reminder/recall. This program is free to child care centers in Minnesota and uses MIIC data to identify students in need of immunizations. The text messages are available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong.
2. For more information, please see [Reminder/Recall Using Text Messages \(PDF\)](#). If your organization would like to participate contact MDH at [health.miictexting@state.mn.us](mailto:health.miictexting@state.mn.us).

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Minnesota may see more cases of measles this year given the increase in measles cases nationally and internationally. In 2023, only 78.7% of 2-year-olds in Minnesota received one dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months compared to 83.8% in 2019 (pre-pandemic). The increase in measles cases, coupled with the decrease in the number of Minnesotan children vaccinated with the MMR vaccine, puts Minnesota at risk for additional measles cases or a measles outbreak.

Thank you for your continued partnership in protecting the health of Minnesotans.

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March 19, 2024

Dear Members of the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I am writing in support of HF 367, to offer child care centers providers the chance to offer an increased level of health protection in their programs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the proportion of U.S. kindergartners receiving state-required vaccines — for illnesses such as polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and diphtheria — declined from 95% to approximately 93% nationwide. Minnesota's kindergartners have immunization rates below the national average. According to a report from the Minnesota Department of Health from the 2022-2023 school year, only 89% of kindergarten students entering public school were fully vaccinated.

This is an extremely concerning decline.

HF 367 aims to reverse that decline. Most childhood vaccinations and boosters occur between 2 months of age and 2 years of age. By removing the non-medical exemption for child care centers and family child care programs, the rates of fully vaccinated children in our communities will increase.

There have been reports of existing cases of measles this year in Minnesota already. Measles is highly contagious and can be extremely serious, especially in young populations. More Minnesotans need to be vaccinated against measles, and this bill will go far to help reach that end.

HF 367 is a step in the right direction for the health and wellbeing of all Minnesotans. Vaccines save lives and — as has been demonstrated over and over — they are safe. I urge members to support HF 367.

Sincerely,

Laurel Ries, MD  
President, Minnesota Medical Association



To whom it may concern:

My name is Nicole Flick, and I am in support of this bill as a licensed child care center provider in Minnesota. I have been working in the Early Childhood field for 19 years, owning my center for 8 years. This bill (HF367-SF610) allows the provider to use their best judgment when it comes to immunizations and the children in their care.

When you ask a provider what the worst thing that could happen to a child under their care, the answer would be a communicable disease outbreak, even before death. The liability on all the other children in your care versus the one, has to take precedent.

I have been through this scenario, I had a parent who chose not to vaccinate and she called me one day and told me she "thinks her child has measles" I instantly went into survival mode letting all my parents know and getting on the phone with the MN Department of Health. In this instance the only thing I could do to prevent all my little infants from attracting the disease was to "watch them for symptoms" . By this time my parents were furious I had allowed this to happen (I was just following the religious exemption law), and several terminated care that same day, I lost thousands of dollars in monthly tuition. Turned out it was not measles but hand, foot and mouth which the doctor got wrong as this family didn't see a licensed physician, they sought out a naturopathist. Thankfully, it was only a small virus, but still all my infants attracted it and were still out for a week.

As a provider who lives this life day in and day out, we need to be able to make sure the children in our care are safe from diseases that could kill them and the parents enrolling their children expect us to keep their child safe. Parents have every right to enroll their child in any program they see fit. However, I as the provider should have the right to choose if I want to take the risk of having unvaccinated children in the same building as infants whose parents cannot yet vaccinate due to age. The risk to young infants who cannot be immunized and attracting a disease like measles could not only create a new pandemic but the death toll would be outright dangerous and preventable.

We all know the science behind vaccines. We all also understand the parents' right to religion and their choice on how to raise their children. However, when their choice can affect how other children live or die, we have to be real. I should have rights as a private care provider as well, within the laws of course.

Fully funding childcare would give the state the right to keep this law, however since there are no plans to do that, we are private small businesses, not schools.

Thank you for reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'nicole flick' in a cursive, lowercase font.

Nicole Flick

Owner of ABC123 Child Enrichment Center LLC

1710 Center Ave W, Dilworth, MN 56529

Phone: 218-349-5846

Email: ABC123centerinfo@gmail.com



Primrose School of Champlin Park  
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March 17, 2024

Dear Chair Pinto and Committee Members,

My name is Joe Piket and I own and operate two Primrose Schools in Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park. I enthusiastically support HF367. To me, this bill is about two things: business freedom and protecting children.

Private businesses should be able to decide on their own customer policies while weighing risks and rewards. Current immunization law should never have included private childcare businesses – we don't enjoy the same protections as public entities. If we have an outbreak parents will turn to me and want to know why I didn't take additional steps to protect their children. I serve infants under 12 to 15 months of age, children who are too young to have received certain vaccines such as for measles. I want to be able to do more to protect the children in my care.

Since this bill only creates a choice for providers, there will still be childcare programs that accept personal belief exemptions. There also need to be places for families who do not want or cannot afford to take this risk with their own children, and want the assurance of a program that does not allow this exemption.

In the end, this bill is about who gets to make choices. Parents can choose to use personal belief exemptions, but private businesses should be able to make decisions around that as well. Everyone should get the same opportunity.

Thank you,

Joseph Piket  
Owner