



Minnesota Child Care Provider  
Information Network  
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The mission of the Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN) is to support, promote and strengthen the profession of licensed family child care, thereby enriching the lives of providers, children, families, and communities.

March 8, 2021

HF260: Retaining early educators through attaining incentives now grant program established, reports required, and money appropriated.

Mister Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 24 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN), a 501c3 sitewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers.

**On behalf of MCCPIN, I am testifying in support of HF0260 regarding the continued implementation and increased funding for the REETAIN program.**

The child care field has met the challenge over the years to support families and children in many ways. Often on unpredictable income with minimal public supports.

There is a high expectation of *quality* being imposed without the support for providers to rise to the expectation. Obtaining quality and education take time outside of the actual care of children. These efforts are not directly compensated.

Many providers have gone beyond basic expectation by staying in the field, continuing with education, and experience again, without supports.

Continuity of care is seen as the most critical dynamic impact in a child's care. Children need to have experienced providers in their lives, over a long period of time. Children and families need to have time to build relationships and consistency. Keeping quality providers in the field is key to a child's life, a family support and economic stability.

REETAIN recognizes those efforts and is a method to support those early childhood educators. **It is a way to say, 'well done' and we want you to stay in the field.**

Please support HF260 and provide opportunity to keep quality providers in the profession.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Cunningham