



April 8, 2015

Dear Members of the House Education Finance Committee,

Family Child Care, Inc., Olmsted County on behalf of its 240 members, we strongly urges you to **oppose** the Universal Preschool plan in Governor Dayton's budget request.

- Quality early learning happens in many settings where developmentally appropriate needs of children and diverse needs of families can be met. Licensed family child care is an essential part of early learning, supporting families and Minnesota's economic engine.
- How soon will it be before we hear how toddlers are not Pre-school ready? This initiative fails to recognize that children need to be in environments that value and respect the child in a developmentally appropriate manner. Children need to be prepared to be 2, 3, 4 or 5 years old. It is developmentally inappropriate to prepare a 3 year old to act, think and be a 5 year old.
- Support investments that build on existing community assets, strengthen supports, and target resources to the children who need it most. There has been a significant investment to programs that support children and care providers in the recent year that need continued funding. This plan will diminish these programs, rather than build on their success.
- Family child care is the preferred means of care for families. This bill will significantly impact the sustainability of child care business. As 4 and 5 year old children attend "free:" preschool.. this will force a market change creating a financial burden for families seeking care birth to 3 The lure of "free" preschool cannot be competed with.

Members, we urge you to oppose this plan,

Sincerely,

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Established in 1973, Family Child Care, Inc. is an organization of licensed family child care providers committed to developing and promoting high quality child care in our community through education, resources, and support.

www.fccimn.com