May 1st, 2019

Members of the Health and Human Services Conference Committee,

We, undersigned business owners, urge you to fully fund Minnesota’s Child Care Assistance Program.

An inability to access affordable child care is one of the biggest factors keeping parents out of the workforce. Unemployment is at a historic low and the need for a trained, committed workforce is at a premium. This shortage of workers constraints our state’s economic growth.

A complete freeze of the Child Care Assistance Program, as proposed, harms 30,000 children and 15,000 families, but it hurts our state’s economic well-being and Minnesota businesses. Without full investment in the Child Care Assistance Program, we can’t have a reliable workforce.

Currently, almost 2,000 families are languishing on the waitlist for the state Child Care Assistance Program, because policymakers haven’t funded it adequately. The Governor and House budgets would take more than half of those families off of the waiting list.

The Minnesota Legislature should eliminate the waiting list for childcare assistance, increase child care assistance reimbursement rates to keep providers in business, and help address the child care shortage.

Stacie Renné, Owner, Warrior Pintress Letterpress and Design, Duluth

Caitlin Rogers, Owner, Next Day Animations, Minneapolis

Daniel Swenson-Klatt, Owner, Butter Bakery Cafe, Minneapolis

Jason Rathe, Owner, Field Outdoor Spaces, Minneapolis

Nicole Jones, Owner Kuk Sool Won, St Paul

Anna Tsantir, Owner, Two Bettys Green Cleaning, St Paul

Julie Noren, Owner, Light Dark Landscaping, Minneapolis
Kim Fishman, Owner, Chears Audiology, St Louis Park and Minneapolis
Eric & Lynn Goerdt, Owners, Northern Waters Smokehaus, Duluth
Abdi Daisane, Owner, Blooming Kids Childcare, St Cloud
Todd Mikkelson, Owner, Sprayrack, Orono
Jack Dickinson, Owner, Texas Timber Frames, Minneapolis
Sarah Leistico, Growth and Justice
Kate Davenport, Owner, Eureka Recycling, Minneapolis
Dolores Voorhees
Ralph Bernstein, Owner, Downtown Dogs, Minneapolis
Matt Zanetti, Owner, Lake Monster Brewing, St Paul
Kevin Brown, Owner, Smart Set, Minneapolis
Elizabeth Spehar, Snooty Fox Tea Shop, Duluth
Jane Shannon, Owner, Bench Pressed Letterpress & Design, Minneapolis
Rob Skarlett, Medical Equipment Exporters Inc, Lino Lakes
Terri Emmerich, Owner, Spice of Life Tea Shop, St Cloud
Sarah Piepenberg, Owner, Vinaigrette, Minneapolis and Navarro
Adeline Wright, Owner, Adeline Salon, Duluth
Ian Levitt, Owner, Studio Americana, Golden Valley
Dulce Olivia Montrubio, Dulceria Bakery, Minneapolis
Holly Hatch Surisook, Sen Yai Sen Lek, Minneapolis