

## 2018 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

### THE MINNESOTA CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION'S VISION

- Every child should arrive at school ready to learn and with the skills and knowledge necessary to continue successful development
- All families should have access to high-quality early childhood programs
- Minnesota should invest in sustainable funding that fully supports quality, choice, and access for families

MCCA works on comprehensive solutions to our state's child care needs.

### OUR PRINCIPLES

#### High-Quality Child Care:

- Helps children, families, and communities prosper
- Produces public economic and social benefits that matter to everyone
- Is an essential part of Minnesota's early childhood education system

### CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Minnesota's low unemployment rate and strong economy are wonderful, but come with unforeseen challenges. Families and employers are facing a crisis of unaffordable, inaccessible child care for too many Minnesotans across too much of the state, and child care providers are either leaving the field or unable to find enough qualified staff to run their programs at capacity.

### MEETING THE CHALLENGE

#### *Direct Investment, Tax Strategy, and Reform Supporting Young Families and the Professionals Who Serve Them*

#### **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) for low-income families:**

- Increase provider reimbursement rates to the (federally-recommended) 75th percentile of the (federally-required) most recent Market Rate Survey
- Forecast the Basic Sliding Fee portion of CCAP to eliminate wait lists
- Expand income eligibility so that families are not priced out of CCAP by well-intentioned policies to raise minimum wages
- Complete implementation of the "family friendly" reforms of the federal 2014 Child Care & Development Block Grant reauthorization

#### **Tax Credits Supporting Access and Quality for Families and Child Care Professionals of All Income Levels**

- Families & Child Care Professionals: credits that increase with the quality rating of their chosen child care provider/employer
- Child Care Owners & Operators: credits that increase with their program's quality rating
- Businesses: credits for investing in child care for their employees

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### **Reform and Investment in Programs Supporting Child Care Professionals**

- Invest state dollars in T.E.A.C.H.®\*, a program to help child care professionals increase their level of education
- Invest state dollars in R.E.E.T.A.I.N.®\*\*, Minnesota's program to retain quality early childhood educators, and reform program so that professionals are able to qualify in consecutive years

### **Support a Mixed-Delivery Early Childhood System**

Amend Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) and School Readiness Plus language to mandate that 40% of any new funds be used in community-based programs, helping to stabilize the child care field and provide varied options for working families.

### **Protect Access for Families of Children with Disabilities**

Exempt Rule 3 child care providers from the Positive Supports Rule to ensure that providers may continue to use developmentally-appropriate practices to ensure child safety, serve children alongside typically-developing peers, and not further limit access to child care for children with disabilities.

### **Expand Early Learning Scholarships**

- Increase overall investment to serve more children
- Increase flexibility around annual caps and eligible ages to meet each family's needs

*\*Teacher Education And Compensation Helps*

*\*\*Retaining Early Educators Through Attaining Incentives Now*

## CONTACT



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