March 16, 2026
RE: Support for SF4388

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) is writing to advocate for the safety, stability, and dignity of the children, families, and professionals we serve across our state.

We value this bill's intent to strengthen early childhood mental health supports for Minnesota's youngest children and the adults that care for them. SF4388 reflects our core values of serving all families with compassion by ensuring that children from birth through age five have access to the specialized mental health care they deserve.

We support key elements of this bill, including:

- Establishing early childhood mental health consultation grants that connect child care professionals with the training and guidance they need to support young children facing significant mental health challenges.
- Investing in evidence-based clinician training and capacity-building, so communities across Minnesota can grow their own expertise in early childhood mental health.
- Providing direct consultation in child care centers, Head Start programs, and family child care settings in order to meet children and families where they already are.
- Supporting family psychoeducation and skills-building, because strong families are the foundation of strong communities.

Minnesotans rely on the consistency and trusted relationships found in our public schools and early childhood programs to weather uncertain times. When young children receive the mental health support they need early on, they are better prepared to grow, learn, and thrive. We ask that you stand with us in creating spaces where children feel safe and supported.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to Minnesota's youngest learners and their families.

Sincerely,

Jen Jaros, Early Childhood Family Education Coordinator
Member, Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE)