



March 14, 2019

Media Contact:

Eric Armacanqui, Policy & Legislative Affairs Director, Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
651-855-1188, earmacanqui@childrensdefense.org

Media Release

Kids Can't Wait Coalition's Response to the Office of the Legislative Auditor's Report on the Child Care Assistance Program

Yesterday the Office of the Legislative Auditor presented their review of Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and could not substantiate allegations made last spring of widespread fraudulent billing against the program. However, they did acknowledge that CCAP integrity measures should be pursued to reduce program misuse. The Kids Can't Wait Coalition believes the Legislature's first priority should be to ensure that the needs of children and families are being met. CCAP dollars should go to families eligible to access the program. While concerns about program integrity need to be addressed, policymakers need to expand access so that all eligible children receive these critical services.

CCAP is a critical work and child development support that serves nearly 30,000 children and 13,000 families monthly across the state. With CCAP, thousands of Minnesota parents can go to work, because they have access to affordable child care, while simultaneously allowing their children to learn and grow in a nurturing environment.

CCAP's benefits go beyond families accessing the program; the benefits overlap into our economy. Access to affordable child care is a necessity to ensure a stable and robust workforce. CCAP addresses this exact need. The program contributes to building communities in which businesses have a reliable workforce, parents can go to work, and children can receive consistent child care. However, because of significant lack of investment in the program, thousands of Minnesota families eligible for CCAP have been left waiting for affordable child care. Prioritizing investment in these families is necessary to address our state's child care and workforce challenges. We need program integrity, but we must also ensure that CCAP is available and accessible for all of the children and families that need it.

#

The Kids Can't Wait coalition supports making child care affordable and accessible for all Minnesota families. The coalition is comprised of a diverse group of cross-sector child care advocates and providers.

Kids Can't Wait Membership List:

Catholic Charities of Minneapolis & St. Paul | Children's Defense Fund – Minnesota | Family 1st Choice | ISIAH | Joint Religious Legislative Coalition | Minnesota Budget Project | Minnesota Child Care Association | Minnesota Community Action Partnership | Minnesota Head Start Association | Minnesota State Alliance of YMCAs | People Serving People | Simpson Housing Services | Three Rivers Community Action Partnership | Voices & Choices for Children Coalition | Wilder Foundation | YWCA Minneapolis