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Education Budget A Win For Families, Minnesota

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – June 5, 2015 – Today, Frank Forsberg, chair of the MinneMinds Coalition, made the following statement regarding the 2015 special session education finance bill:

“The MinneMinds coalition congratulates state leaders on crafting a final education budget that supports our youngest learners.

“The Special Session Education Finance Bill released today will ensure thousands of additional children have access to high quality early learning to start on a path to success each year. It will also create greater opportunities for families to choose an early learning program that best meets the needs of their whole family, from licensed family child care to public school pre-k programs.

Most importantly, the investments made this year will continue to help us close our state’s achievement gap by prioritizing early learning support for those families that need it most. Additional funding for early learning scholarships alone will nearly double the number of children able to access high quality early learning across the state. Approximately 20,000 three- and four-year-olds should receive an early learning scholarship in the next two years.

“Additional funding for Head Start, School Readiness, the Northside Achievement Zone and St. Paul Promise Neighborhood create even greater opportunity and flexibility for families to ensure every child in Minnesota enters kindergarten ready to learn.

“We still have work to do, but Governor Dayton and the State Legislature continue to build on their legacy of investing in young children, keeping Minnesota on track to be one of the most innovative and ardent supporters of early learners.”

About MinneMinds

MinneMinds is supported by a broad base of nearly 100 statewide organizations and thought leaders with a common commitment to prioritizing Minnesota’s youngest children as the most pressing need and important investment for Minnesota. Supporting organizations include representatives of the education community from early childhood to K-12, the state’s leading philanthropic organizations, local

chapters of national nonprofits and business. Collectively and independently, these supporting organizations have advocated for and helped to advance a number of successful state policy changes and endeavors over the past several years. For more information and a complete list of MinneMinds supporters, visit www.MinneMinds.com.

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