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MinneMinds Coalition Statement on Governor Dayton's Veto of Education Bill

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – May 19, 2015 – Today, Frank Forsberg, chair of the MinneMinds Coalition, made the following statement regarding Governor Dayton's veto of the education bill passed by the Minnesota legislature:

“Governor Dayton has been an ardent supporter of early learning and with his leadership early childhood education has become one of the premier issues for the state. Under his tenure, Minnesota has seen an unprecedented increase in funding for Minnesota's youngest learners and become a national leader in policy innovation. The Governor's veto of the education bill passed by the legislature is a clear example of his genuine devotion to doing what he thinks is right for Minnesota's children.

“Throughout this session there has been bipartisan agreement on the need to invest in early learning to close the achievement gap and make sure all children are ready for success in school and in life. The MinneMinds coalition, supported by 100+ organizations from across the state, shares that aspiration and is committed to supporting a bipartisan solution to education funding this session.

“Early learning scholarships were championed by Governor Dayton in past sessions and have garnered strong bipartisan support; they should be a centerpiece of the budget resolution. They increase access to high quality early learning programs of all types for children most in need through flexible, parent-directed support and are one of the most effective tools we have for closing the achievement gap.

“While the Governor's veto means that the debate at the Capitol will continue, we encourage all leaders to embrace a compromise that makes meaningful change for our youngest learners and builds on previous, successful investments in early learning. A generation from now, we should look back and remember this session as the one where we truly made the achievement gap a thing of the past.”

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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