COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

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Rep. Liz Olson receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

ST. PAUL—State Rep. Liz Olson was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 29 during the Coalition's summer conference in Alexandria for her positive impact on economic development in Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Olson, a Democrat from Duluth, is serving her third term in the Minnesota House. The Legislator of Distinction Award is given to legislators who played key roles in advancing CGMC's policy during the preceding legislative session.

This year, Rep. Olson stepped into the limelight as a key leader in addressing the child care crisis that plagues communities across Greater Minnesota. She worked closely with the CGMC and its partner organization, the Greater Minnesota Partnership, to craft several pieces of legislation aimed at combating the child care shortage. She served as the chief author on bills to provide funding for the Minnesota Initiative Foundations to expand their efforts to provide training and business support to child care providers, to increase funding for child care grants for businesses and families, and to help communities build, renovate or expand child care facilities. Her efforts and advocacy led to the inclusion of millions of dollars in child care funding in the state's budget for the upcoming biennium.

"In a particularly challenging year for child care providers and families, Rep. Olson went above and beyond to find solutions to the child care crisis," said Greg Zylka, mayor of Little Falls and president of the CGMC. "Throughout the session, she never stopped fighting for Greater Minnesota families and communities. From committee hearings to meetings with city leaders and child care advocates to discussions with her fellow lawmakers, Rep. Olson has been a strong, consistent voice on this critical issue."

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing more than 100 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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