



February 28, 2022

Senator Jim Abeler, Chair  
Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee  
Room 1200 Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN

RE: SF 3115

Dear Chair Abeler and Members of the Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Agencies (MACSSA) and the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), we offer our support to SF 3115, a bill directing the commissioner to make recommendations for paperwork reduction relating to child protection cases.

Counties are mindful of the increasing administrative burden current child protection requirements and the shortcomings of the existing Social Service Information System (SSIS) place on counties and on our frontline work force. The current process requirements are increasingly complex and the shortcomings of the technology system are so arduous that they distract from the true mission of supporting children and families. We fully support steps to review, streamline and implement changes that reduce paperwork requirements and provide administrative simplification. Additionally, we are proud of the strong county-tribal collaboration component in this bill. AMC and MACSSA fully support the spirit and intent of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and are committed to collaborating with the Tribes to further ensure the spirit and coordination of ICWA are fulfilled. Furthermore, we believe the outcome of SF 3115 would eventually lead to increased time and opportunity to provide services to children and families, supporting placement prevention and/or timely reunification with parents, relatives or kin.

Once again, AMC and MACSSA thank Rep. Rarick and others for their support of SF 3115 and look forward to future opportunities to work in partnership and collaboration with Minnesota's Tribal Governments, the State and stakeholders to envision and develop systemic changes and simplification with the mutual goal of assuring safety and wellbeing for all Minnesota children.

Sincerely,

Angie Thies  
Child Wellbeing Policy Analyst  
Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Freeman  
Executive Director, MACSSA  
Human Services Policy Analyst, AMC

Cc: Senator Jason Rarick