



**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
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March 21, 2022

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

Thank you for hearing SF3690, to improve Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) service delivery. This proposal was developed with input from many stakeholders interested in making CTSS more flexible to deliver needed mental health care to children and families.

As a statewide association of children and family service providers, it is clear that the need for children's mental health care has never been greater, and, due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacts providers also face unprecedented challenges in delivering needed care. In this critical time we must focus our attention on strategies that simplify processes and prioritize staff time on treatment for children and families.

SF3690 simplifies direction for Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports and makes a number of changes that:

- Support needed collaboration required to meet child and family needs by including Care Consultation and Care Coordination in the service
- Update provider certification standards and shift CTSS to be included in the Uniform Service Standards (USS) statute in Chapter 245I
- Clean up and clarify the statute to incorporate mental health standards as outlined by USS and reflected in current practice in the field

We are grateful for leadership from the MN Children's Cabinet, Department of Human Services and Department of Education for convening the CTSS Working Group beginning in summer of 2022 to examine where CTSS can be improved to meet the needs of children and families in need of mental health care. Though SF3690 is not a comprehensive reflection of all strategies discussed in those venues, we believe this legislation advances a shared cause for administrative simplification and flexibility in service delivery for the benefit of children and families. We look forward to the ongoing opportunities to support these reform efforts so that CTSS can increasingly be a valued service to meet children's mental health needs.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

**AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.**