



Minnesota Senate Jobs Committee
March 28, 2022

On behalf of Washburn Center for Children, I am writing to express strong support for the proposed **\$200 million Nonprofit Relief Fund**.

Washburn Center for Children is a Community Mental Health Center providing school, home and community-based therapeutic services for nearly 4,000 children from birth through 18 and their 12,000 family members across the Twin Cities metro and statewide training for over 700 clinical interns, parents and professionals each year. More than half of clients identify as BIPOC and 75% are experiencing financial hardship.

The pandemic has profoundly impacted the mental health of the families we serve and impacted Washburn Center financially. We provide affordable access to mental health care for children and families. In 2021, the number of families qualifying for our sliding fee scale doubled, and we provided over \$400,000 in uncompensated care. Ongoing covid disruptions drove a \$1.5M operating loss in 2021. Community Mental Health Centers cannot continue to absorb this level of financial loss for much longer.

These grants would allow Washburn Center to continue providing affordable access to urgently needed mental health care for thousands of children and families.

Washburn Center for Children urgently asks the Committee to support the **\$200 million Nonprofit Relief Fund**.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom S.", written in a cursive style.

Tom Steinmetz, CEO



washburn.org

Main: 1100 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis MN 55405 | **Northwest:** 9100 85th Ave. N., Suite 100, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

West: 5050 Lincoln Drive, Suite 350, Edina, MN 55436 | **Agency:** 612.871.1454 | **Fax:** 612.871.1505