



Association of  
Minnesota Counties



MACSSA

Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators

February 21, 2023

Senator Marty, Chair  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
RE: HF 1071/SF 667 – Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) recognize that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) represent important standards for how we support Indian children and families and conduct child protection.

We value the work of Senator Kunesch, Representative Keeler, the work of the eleven sovereign tribes in Minnesota, the work of the Tribal workgroup – led by Rebecca McConkey – Greene and the many others involved, for these needed policy changes. AMC and MACSSA appreciate the opportunity to work with our Minnesota tribes, the tribal workgroup and to be invited and involved in this process.

We also recognize that strong, collaborative relationships with our tribes is critical and integral to our continued ICWA/MIFPA work. In times of program scarcity, increased mental health and substance use needs, workforce shortages and woefully inadequate information systems it is critical to make investments in both tribes and counties to foster more partnership, establish upstream services, and build strong relationships and coordination.

As S.F. 667/H.F. 1071 move forward, AMC and MACSSA look forward to continuing dialog in two important areas – the definition of imminent physical damage or harm and in the area of providing a qualified expert witness testimony for transfer of custody petitions, temporary custody to the agency petitions, and permanent custody to the agency petitions.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort that has gone into this legislation and look forward to continued conversations as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

Angie Thies, Child Wellbeing Policy Analyst  
Association of Minnesota Counties