



**Minnesota Coalition**  
FOR FAMILY HOME VISITING

March 21, 2023

Representative Peter Fischer  
Chair, Services Policy Committee  
200 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting (MCFHV) urges you to support SF 1174 to improve access to, and invest in, mental health services for families in Minnesota. When addressed and treated early, mental health interventions are shown to prevent the need for additional medication, saving costs and mitigating the lifelong impact of mental health challenges on a baby's cognitive, physical and emotional development.

When families with babies and young children are referred into the mental health system, they've reported waiting three to nine months before accessing a consultation appointment. In the time it takes to access a consultation, complete the appropriately extensive DC: 0-5 mental health assessment and begin care, babies have grown in and out of multiple developmental cycles. Allowing families to access services to address their children's mental health while undergoing the DC: 0-5 assessment will allow them to receive critical support in a matter of weeks, not months. Increased resources for early childhood mental health services will address parent and caregivers concerns of being forced to choose between their family's financial wellbeing and treating their mental health as steep copays and long distance make it challenging for families to access care.

Additionally, the Coalition supports allowing families receiving MFIP to access child care grants. We support providing parents with the time and security to receive mental health care because it uplifts those most impacted by systematic barriers, families in rural Minnesota and low-income families.

Please join the Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting in supporting SF 1174 as amended, to improve access to preventative and early intervention mental health services for both caregivers and their young children.

Thank you,

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,  
Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting

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