



March 22, 2023

*Sent via Email

The Honorable Senator Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for SF 2966 – Family First Prevention Services Act Provisions

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing and authoring [SF 2966](#). Olmsted County supports several provisions in the bill but would like to highlight the Family First Prevention Services Act provisions today and urge your support for this legislation.

Included in SF 2966 are many critical components that will be necessary to fully meet the federal requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act, originally passed in 2018 by Congress, and implemented in Minnesota in 2021. Olmsted County strongly supports the funding allocations for counties included in the bill that will support the further development and implementation of early intervention programs. Implementation will require training of staff and maintaining fidelity to program models to fully receive federal reimbursement which can be burdensome on counties without financial supports.

Additionally, we support the growth of kinship programs so these services can become available state-wide. For our agency and many others to receive the 50% federal reimbursement outlined in Title IVE, we need a kinship navigator program that meets the clearinghouse requirements. This could make future efforts and implementation more sustainable within Olmsted County and across Minnesota.

SF 2966 also includes a provision for establishing Community Resource Centers. Olmsted County has researched this concept and is interested in further exploration to learn more about the numerous benefits it can provide to our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Wright".

Gregory Wright, Chair
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
gregory.wright@olmstedcounty.gov