



April 9, 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund  
Health & Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building | Room 1100  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) urges you to support SF 4664, to invest in mental health reimbursement rates, services, and programs for families in Minnesota. Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) represents a diverse group of stakeholders supporting policies and programs aimed at ensuring infants, toddlers and families with young children have the best start in life regardless of income, geography, or race.

Young children and youth are presenting more complex mental health challenges than in the past. For example, children as young as two or three years of age, are finding themselves removed from early learning settings because they pose a threat to other young children or themselves. When rates do not cover the cost of care, agencies are forced to raise funds through co-pays, private resources, or to not provide this critical care to all families in need.

PN-3 Coalition supports investing in the mental health field, specifically by increasing Medicaid mental health reimbursement rates, because it will improve the ability of community-based organizations and public agencies to pay providers to perform critical care for services to children and families. Minnesota cannot afford to have people leave the mental health field or have agencies close because they cannot afford to pay staff and provide services for families.

We urge you to act today and support SF 4664 and invest in the workforce supporting the mental health of families and young children across Minnesota.

Thank you,

Deb Fitzpatrick,  
Children's Defense Funds-MN,  Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,  
West Central Initiative,  
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn  
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition  
Coalition Coordinator