



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

www.aspiremn.org

April 17, 2024

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful development of SF4699, your omnibus budget proposal. As a statewide association of children and family serving providers we have been very clear all year that the very top priority to address ongoing crisis facing our communities is to invest in Medicaid mental health rates.

We are so grateful that despite the very challenging spending target that the committee received that you were able to dedicate funding for mental health care – with investment in Medicaid outpatient rates, children's respite for families, and developing a new MA benefit for children's residential crisis stabilization as items we know will yield great benefit for children and families over both the short and long-terms.

Your investment in Kinship Caregivers is greatly appreciated. Kinship/relative caregivers are increasingly the primary family resource in our child welfare system, and, investing in meaningful support to help them provide the loving parenting that children need is both wise and necessary.

We look forward to continued dialogue as this omnibus moves into conference and actively supporting goals for all Minnesota children and families to experience wellbeing and hope for their futures.

Gratefully,

Kirsten Anderson
Executive Director

AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.

1919 University Avenue W. #450, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104