



April 17, 2024
Senate Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Hoffman and Committee Members,

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing to offer comments on SF5335, the Senate Human Services Omnibus Bill. Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric health care system, serving patients from all 87 counties and 60 percent of counties in surrounding states. Nearly half of our patients are insured through Medicaid.

Children in Minnesota are experiencing a mental health crisis, too often boarding in hospital emergency departments waiting for the right level of care to become available.

- We support the extension of the validity of MnCHOICES assessments from 60 days to 365 days and creating a process for certifying additional providers to conduct assessments, both of which will help children access the care they need.

A critical service we provide to patients is our home care program. We know that our complex patients who no longer require hospital level care can benefit from high quality nursing care at home. Unfortunately, access to this kind of care is limited due to workforce shortages, inadequate insurance coverage and the need to increase reimbursement rates for home care nursing.

- We support the investment in a pediatric hospital-to-home transition pilot project that will provide vital information and services that will inform important system changes and provide critical support for children and families.

As conversations on this bill continue, we hope you will consider adding language that would direct the Department of Human Services to apply for a section 1115 waiver to develop a Medicaid demonstration project to address health related social needs. 80% of what impacts the health of a child happens outside of our hospital and clinic walls. Equitable access to social supports, including food, housing and safe communities is essential to ensuring the health and wellness of children and their families.

At Children's Minnesota, our vision is to be every family's essential partner in raising healthier children. As the kid experts in our community, we appreciate the opportunity to partner with you to collectively improve the health and wellbeing of kids in our state.

Sincerely,

Amanda Jansen, MPP
Director of Public Policy
Children's Minnesota