



**MN AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRESERVATION AND CHILD WELFARE
DISPROPORTIONALITY ACT
TO
STOP THE ARBITRARY REMOVAL OF CHILDREN BY MINNESOTA'S CHILD
PROTECTION SYSTEM**

**|Senate Author- Champion | House Author- Agbaje
SF 716 | HF 912**

Minnesota's African American youth are removed from their homes at an alarming rate and a large number are crossing over from child protection into the juvenile justice system. **Racial disparities are found in the entire process; from initial reporting, screening, and assessment to discharge from the system.**

Minnesota's child protection system relies heavily upon child removal as a **first response** to ethnic families. Although family separation is **not** an evidence-based practice. In fact, the research and overall statistical outcomes for foster youth **prove** that separation **does not** keep children safe, it does the opposite.

The likelihood of incarceration increases, the risks of substance use, homelessness, lack of education, mental health disorders, generational problems, and sex trafficking are all **significantly higher** for young people that have been in foster care than their counterparts that did not experience a removal. Family separation is the precursor for poor outcomes in all of these areas.

The child protection reform that began under the orders of Governor Dayton **failed** to address disproportionality, unequal treatment and poor child welfare outcomes for African American and other ethnic families. On the contrary, the governor's task force recommendations lead to a 50% increase in the removal of African American children from their homes. The perpetual clogging of our child protection system with children that are **not** at risk of harm lends to case worker overload, a significant decrease in foster home availability and a nonsensical increase in state spending while leaving children **truly** in need of protection, vulnerable and at risk.

We all know that healthy families are vital to the success of our children and ultimately, our state. Everyone has a stake in ensuring Minnesota's Child Protection system is fair and equitable. Help us address the injustice faced by these families through your support of the AAFPA.

**THE MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT WOULD SERVE
TO:**

- ✦ Protect Children and Strengthen Families
- ✦ Reduce the Overall Cost of Child Welfare Services and Out of Home Placement
 - ✦ Reduce Law Enforcement and Judicial Systems Costs for Intervention
- ✦ Improve the Mental Health and Social Functioning of African American Children
 - ✦ Improve the Child Protection Department's Efficacy

CLOSER LOOK:

- African American children are over 3 times more likely than their white counterparts to be **reported to child protection**
- Parents of African American children facing less serious allegations than their white counterparts remain **2-7 times more likely** to have their children removed
- According to county and state data, White parents, facing the same or more egregious allegations, are more likely to receive services that allow their children to *remain in the home* while African American children are **removed** from theirs
- African American families are assigned to the family investigation path for **discretionary** reasons at significantly higher rates than White families
- The family investigation track is more **punitive**, it can involve the court and a maltreatment finding. This finding may cause a loss of employment and/or housing. This impacts the family's long-term wellbeing while increasing their likelihood of future child protection involvement
- The rights of African American parents are terminated at higher rates. African American and children of 2 or more races are 3-5 times more likely than White children to become a **state ward**
- African American and children of two or more races are **least likely** to be adopted before the age of 18
- African American children are the **highest population** of children moving from child protection to juvenile detention (foster care to prison pipeline)

The Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act would (1) protect the best interests of African American and disproportionately represented children and (2) promote the stability and security of families by establishing minimum standards to prevent the unnecessary removal. The Act would work to address disparities at **every decision point** while providing oversight and accountability to the child protection workforce. Let's do our part to ensure ALL children have the opportunity to thrive. Extend your support today!