



February 18, 2025
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing in strong support of SF971 which supports frontline health care providers by promoting transparency and learning, rather than criminalizing mistakes.

Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric healthcare system, seeing more than 160,000 kids annually from every county in Minnesota and over half of counties in the 5-state region. In 2023, this included over 85,000 emergency room visits and over 500,000 outpatient clinic visits. In each of these, kids and families relied on thousands of nurses, physicians, advanced practice providers, and allied health professionals to provide them exceptional health care.

Our patient families trust these clinicians to make quick decisions at critical times in high-pressure environments. We must, in turn, ensure our providers feel comfortable reporting errors so we can improve systems and prevent future mistakes. This legislation is important because it encourages transparency and reporting, supports a culture of continuous improvement and helps retain health care workers.

By focusing on fixing processes and making systemic improvements, rather than criminalizing mistakes, we can continue delivering timely, high quality health care to kids across Minnesota and beyond. Our frontline providers are critical in achieving our vision to be every families essential partner in raising healthier children. On behalf of them, I urge your support of SF971.

Sincerely,

Caroline Njau, MBA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services
Children's Minnesota