



## MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair  
Health and Human Services  
February 20, 2025



Chair Wiklund and Health and Human Services Committee Members,

Thank you for your attention to the social-emotional needs of students. On behalf of the MN School Social Workers Association (MSSWA) and the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW-MN), we are writing in support of SF942.

NASW-MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state, representing 2000 social workers, and MSSWA is a professional group serving over 700 members to advance the practice of school social work in MN. Collectively, our organizations offer experience and expertise in children's mental health and wellness in schools and their family systems.

SF942 champions community-driven services to help children who are deemed habitually truant, while providing counties with much-needed flexibility to partner with trusted community providers. These providers are uniquely positioned to address the deeper, often complex challenges that contribute to truancy within families.

Currently, counties and child welfare agencies have limited options when responding to truancy concerns. SF942 allows them to work alongside community-based organizations that understand the cultural and linguistic needs of families, ensuring that support is not only accessible but also meaningful and effective.

Social workers understand that the underlying challenges within a family that lead to truancy takes time, trust, and compassion. We believe in investing in community-led responses that expand the support network available to families.

We wholeheartedly support this bill because it prioritizes accessibility, dignity, and real solutions for Minnesota's children and families. We urge the committee to pass SF942 and take an important step toward strengthening families and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karen E. Goodenough, LGSW  
Executive Director  
NASW-MN

Julie Campanelli, LICSW  
President  
MSSWA

Christy McCoy, LICSW  
Legislative Chair  
MSSWA