

February 24, 2025

Sen. Melissa Wiklund, Chair  
Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
95 University Ave W, Room 2107  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Senate File 1402 and Senate File 1561

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

ARRM is a statewide trade association of over 200 provider organizations, businesses, and advocates dedicated to leading in the advancement of Home and Community-Based services that support both adults and children with disabilities. On behalf of our members, we want to take this opportunity to offer our support for both Senate File 1402 and Senate File 1561.

Over the last year, ARRM has been engaged in coalition work with other provider organizations, hospitals, and advocacy organizations to address and find solutions for the crisis of children boarding in emergency rooms, detention centers, and with counties across the state. SF 1402 and SF 1561 offer those solutions to support children and their families in finding the right kinds of support to prevent long-term placements in emergency rooms or corrections facilities and the proper interventions to support a child to transition out of one of these placements.

Children with a developmental disability or mental illness should not be boarding in emergency rooms or correctional facilities. They should be with their families or in a community-based setting where they can access the important services and support they need to help them in their day-to-day lives. We want to thank Chair Wiklund and Sen. Mann for bringing these important pieces of legislation forward and look forward to the continued work to ensure that every child has access to the services they need to live their best life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for these proposals.

Sincerely,

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