



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families
www.aspiremn.org

February 24, 2025

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

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family service providers. Our leaders have been working tirelessly on solutions to the crisis of children boarding, and grateful for the opportunity to support SF1561 to advance effective and targeted solutions for children to access needed community-based care.

This Solutions to Children Boarding proposal was designed and vetted by experts in children's services with a focus on elevating those services that can make a clear and meaningful impact on this crisis. Effective team responses, individualized treatment solutions, and policy improvements weave together a focused response to boarding that we believe will address today's crisis while building capacity, learning and direction that can eliminate the experience of children boarding and make it a thing of the past.

This proposal also continues to rely on investments in our community-based rates structure to assure community-based services are able to meet the needs of children and families. In-home family-centered intensive mental health services have incredible outcomes, leverage low-cost interventions, and, contribute to preventing more intensive services by building skills and leveraging natural supports for the child and family system. Due to the current Medicaid outpatient rates structure, these services are dwindling and difficult to access. With added investment these services can make a tremendous impact in preventing boarding for children.

We are grateful to Senator Mann for her leadership and expertise and hopeful that these scalable Solutions to Children Boarding will advance in 2025.

Many thanks,

Kirsten Anderson
Executive Director

AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.

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