



Minnesota Hospital Association

**161 Rondo Ave., Ste. 1010
Saint Paul, MN 55103**

www.mnhospitals.org

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Submitted Electronically

Chair Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) in strong support for SF 1561 (Mann) and its multiple provisions that will begin to improve the growing crisis of children boarding in hospital emergency departments.

In 2023, patients across the state spent roughly 195,000 avoidable days in hospitals, waiting for the right level of care to become available. This includes close to 12,000 avoidable days for children alone, including 3,219 days for children boarding in hospital emergency departments. Boarding uses some of the most critical care beds in the state. Adolescent patients are often stuck waiting for inpatient care they need or are simply being brought to a hospital Emergency Department because there is a lack of any viable alternative services.

Hospitals and health systems across Minnesota know firsthand that children, their families and their communities are the first to bear the consequences of unnecessary boarding. We urge the legislature to clearly understand the crisis of boarding and that the lack of needed mental health care for children is systemic. As such, we strongly support the following provisions in SF 1561:

- Leverage Decompression Funding to individualize solutions for children boarding
- Establish the Youth Professional Training System to train and equip the workforce
- Sustain Youth Transition Teams to design services with each child and family
- Grow High-Fidelity Wraparound and family-driven support to gain stability
- Support respite for families
- Improve the PRTF benefit to care for more kids

Sincerely,

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