



Adoption • Chemical Health Assessment & Outpatient Treatment • In-Home Services  
Foster Care • Outpatient Mental Health Services • School Based Services • Medication Management  
Residential: *Treatment Cottage, Boys Program & Teens in Transition,*  
*Girls Program & Girls Teens in Transition, and Next Step*  
I.T.A.S.K.I.N. Center: *Stabilization Shelter Unit, 35 Day Evaluation & Detention Center*

February 24, 2025

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee;

My name is Connie Ross. I am the Vice President & Chief Program Officer for North Homes Children and Family Services. I am writing to support HF 671/SF1561. We deeply support the remedies noted in the bill. Children with extensive mental health needs are boarding in our emergency departments and detention centers. These settings are often not conducive to trauma informed treatment. Children are needing and have a right to comprehensive mental health treatment.

Please support Minnesota children by supporting the following solutions;

- 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 natural family driven support to gain stability
- Create access to MnCHOICES
- Support respite for families
- Improve the PRTF benefit to care for more children

Please support HF 671/SF1561 so that providers can meet the needs of children with complex mental health diagnosis in a setting conducive to therapeutic and trauma informed interventions. Children boarding in our emergency departments is not an effective use of financial resources or in the best interests of children.

Sincerely,

Connie Ross

Vice President & Chief Program Officer

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