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Re: Support for Solutions to Children Boarding (SF 1561)

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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

I am writing to express SAVE - Suicide Awareness Voices of Education's support for Solutions to Children Boarding (SF 1561), a crucial piece of legislation aimed at addressing the ongoing crisis where children with mental health and related needs are left without access to appropriate treatment, often stuck in hospital emergency departments, detention centers, or county custody due to a lack of mental health resources. This is a growing concern across Minnesota, and urgent action is needed to provide these children with the care and support they require.

Currently, our state's safety net systems are overwhelmed, leaving vulnerable children boarded in emergency rooms, held for safety, and denied timely access to mental health treatment. This is not only detrimental to their well-being but also places immense strain on healthcare providers, law enforcement, and social service agencies. SF 1561 will be a critical step toward ensuring that these children receive the appropriate, timely, and specialized care they deserve.

Investing in the well-being of Minnesota's children today will result in healthier, more resilient communities tomorrow. I urge you to support SF 1561 and advocate for funding and resources to ensure that children with mental health needs receive the care they require, when and where they need it most.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to the well-being of Minnesota's children, and I look forward to your support of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Erich Mische, CEO

SAVE - Suicide Awareness Voices of Education

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