



February 26, 2025
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing in support of SF928 which increases access to specific mental health services and supports for children and families.

Minnesota children are facing a mental health crisis because they cannot access care when they need it. That is why, in recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of children boarding in our hospitals. In 2024 kids boarded at Children's Minnesota more than 1,200 times, a substantial increase from the year prior. These children are in need of mental health care and are stuck waiting in a hospital room for days, weeks or even months for the right level of care to become available to them. We do what we can to provide the best care possible, but the hospital environment simply cannot meet their needs.

Many of these children and their families would benefit from community-based services and system supports that make mental health care more accessible. The bill before you would enable more families to utilize school-linked behavioral health services to meet their students' needs, establish aftercare support for children and families transitioning home from a residential mental health facility and improve safety for children's non-emergency medical transportation.

These services are critical to building out the infrastructure needed to address the challenges too many Minnesota children are facing. We can do more to support the mental health of children in our state and this bill gives us that opportunity. Please support SF9048.

Sincerely,

Amanda Jansen, MPP
Director of Public Policy
Children's Minnesota