



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota State Senate
February 26, 2025

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter to support of **Senate File 928**.

SF928 includes priorities from the wider Mental Health Legislative Network to support children in school-based mental health services, improve safety for children's non-emergency medical transportation, and establish critical aftercare supports for children and families during transitions home following intensive residential mental health care. SF928 meets child and family needs at this critical time to sustain effective services and improve outcomes, all critical to resolving the children's mental health crisis.

- allowing school-linked behavioral health grants to support parents to access mental health care if needed to meet the treatment needs of the student
- modifying Nonemergency Medical Transportation to require that a child receive door to door transportation service
- including these NEMT changes apply to the managed care and county-based purchasing plans
- establishing aftercare services for children by including the benefit for aftercare that is available for adults through Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS) to apply to children and families through Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS)
- appropriating funding for the school-linked behavioral health grants to address the \$5M cliff in funding approaching for these services, starting in fiscal year 2027.

Thank you for your leadership and support taking steps to solve the children's mental health crisis.

Sincerely

Jin Lee Palen, Executive Director