



February 24, 2025

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

We write on behalf of our school boards and superintendents to express our unwavering support for Senate Bill SF928, currently scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, February 26 in the Health and Human Services Committee.

As you are aware, this vital program has consistently demonstrated its effectiveness in addressing the growing mental health challenges among our students. At a time when our children are increasingly struggling, the support provided by School-Linked Behavioral Health Grants is not just beneficial, it is essential.

These grants have proven to be an innovative and impactful initiative that directly connects schools with the mental health resources our students desperately need. The program's success in improving access to support and reducing barriers for students experiencing mental health difficulties has been clear. However, the looming \$5 million funding cliff poses a significant threat to the continuity and expansion of these crucial services.

We respectfully urge you to consider the pressing needs of our students and the proven benefits of this program when deliberating on the funding allocation. By securing the necessary resources for SF928, you will be affirming our commitment to the health, safety, and success of every student in our schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We remain available to provide any additional information and look forward to your favorable decision in supporting SF928.

Sincerely,

Minnesota School Boards Association

Association of Metropolitan School Districts