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Re: School-linked Funding, NEMT Improvements & Aftercare Support (SF 0928)

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 SF 0928, which aims to create a children's standard for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) and establish a Community Integration benefit for children transitioning from intensive treatment settings to homes and communities. Ensuring access to reliable transportation is critical to the well-being and development of children with complex medical and mental health needs.

Transportation is often a significant barrier for families trying to access necessary medical care, therapy, and other essential services. Children with serious medical conditions and mental health challenges require consistent and timely access to their treatments, yet many families struggle to secure safe and appropriate transportation. By establishing a children's standard for NEMT, this bill will help eliminate transportation gaps, ensuring that children do not miss critical medical appointments due to logistical challenges.

Furthermore, the Community Integration benefit will provide much-needed support for children as they transition from intensive treatment settings back into their homes and community environments. These transitions often require coordinated efforts to maintain stability, continue necessary treatments, and support families in managing their children's ongoing care needs. Access to reliable transportation is vital in these transitions, as it allows children to continue attending therapy sessions, follow-up appointments, and community support programs without disruption.

Passing SF 0928 is an essential step toward removing barriers to care and improving health outcomes for Minnesota's most vulnerable children. I urge you to support SF 0928 to ensure that children receive the necessary transportation and services for successful transitions to their homes and communities. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving the lives of Minnesota's children.

Sincerely,

Erich Mische, CEO

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