

# Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

**Minnesota Chapter of the  
American Academy of  
Pediatrics**

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Health and Human Services Committee

Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave West  
St Paul, MN 55103

March 3, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing in support of SF1175. This legislation would establish a presumptive disability determination process for medical assistance (MA) eligibility, particularly for infants with a positive newborn screening or a compassionate care allowance determination. The bill would be an essential step toward ensuring timely access to necessary medical care for some of our most vulnerable children.

Delays in disability determinations may leave infants and children with severe or life-threatening conditions and without access to critical medical services. By aligning presumptive eligibility with a positive newborn screening result or a compassionate care allowance determination, SF1175 ensures that infants with urgent medical needs receive immediate access to care, reducing barriers and preventing adverse health outcomes.

This policy will have profound impacts by:

- Providing immediate access to care: infants who test positive for congenital or heritable disorders often require urgent medical intervention. Presumptive eligibility ensures they receive care without unnecessary delays.
- Improving health outcomes: early intervention is critical for infants diagnosed with severe conditions. By facilitating prompt access to medical assistance, we can improve survival rates and long-term health outcomes.
- Enhancing healthcare efficiency: streamlining the eligibility process reduces administrative burdens on hospitals and healthcare providers, allowing them to focus on patient care rather than bureaucratic hurdles.

MNAAP urges your support for SF1175 to ensure that all eligible infants receive the timely and necessary medical assistance they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Smentek".

Katie Smentek, MD, FAAP  
President, Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics