



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families
www.aspiremn.org

March 5, 2025

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family service providers. Support for kinship caregivers has been a top priority item for the association – for policy and practice. With over 60% of foster care placements now in relative-kin homes we must update our services to be responsive and deliver individualized support for kinship caregivers.

We are grateful to Senator Maye Quade for authoring SF1786 and elevating the opportunities the state of Minnesota has to meet emerging national best practice standards for kinship licensing and support.

When children access care close to home and within their wider defined communities they have opportunity to maintain cultural practices, faith traditions and the comforts found in loving relationships. All of this contributes to child and family wellbeing, and to positive developmental outcomes that are often lifelong in nature.

We are grateful for continued momentum to improve our child welfare responses to be increasingly child and family centered and see SF1786 as another important stride forward toward that important goal.

Warm regards,

Kirsten Anderson
Executive Director

AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.

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