



March 6, 2025

Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue W.
2107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SF1786.

LSAP and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. MDLC provides free legal services to children and adults with disabilities. LSAP is the advocacy arm of Legal Aid and has provided legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of Minnesotans with low incomes since 1977.

Legal Aid knows firsthand the critical role that relative-kin caregivers serve in our communities. Kinship caregiving keeps children closer to home, family, and community and contributes to positive outcomes for child health and well-being.

One specific aspect of this bill that Legal Aid finds important is related to targeted income support and anti-poverty strategies. Financial assistance and public benefits for relative caregivers are often limited and can create difficult choices for families in caregiving. The narrow changes to MFIP policy – while not creating new investment – would still create some welcome avenues for both caregivers and children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Webster", written over a horizontal line.

Jessica L. Webster
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project