



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

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Dear Chair Wiklund and Health and Human Services Committee Members,

AspireMN is a statewide association of child and family serving organizations. Members are keenly aware of the children's mental health crisis in access to needed treatment and services, and, the outcome of our inadequate system in the exacerbated crisis of children boarding in hospitals, detention centers and with counties.

All partners in this work of responding to the children's mental health crisis are invested in developing viable treatment and service solutions for our children – including organizations and individual professionals. Unfortunately, too often we hear from families, community service providers and advocates that families are being threatened with a report to child protection at the precarious time that the child and family are seeking services within a hospital environment. This seems to be another symptom of a system with inadequate services and alignment to respond to child and family need.

In this circumstance and in so many others our system is demonstrating a failure to our families. The threat and active referral to child protection is currently creating significant adverse outcome for families in the midst of a often desperate pursuit of treatment for their child. Referring a parent to child protection can impact their employment, parenting of other children, and overall family stability.

AspireMN supports SF1682 and all efforts to prevent harm to children and families and build the needed system-wide capabilities to deliver incredibly needed individualized care to children and families.

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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