



March 9, 2025

Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SF1682**

Dear Chair Wiklund and Health and Human Services Committee Members,

The Multicultural Autism Action Network (MAAN) is a non-profit organization serving families of children with disabilities in multicultural communities. We are writing to express our strong support for SF1682, which clarifies that neglect under child protection does not include children boarding in an emergency department or in a hospital bed when parents can't take the child home due to lack of services.

Our organization has supported families facing the incredibly difficult position of either being reported to child protection or bringing a child with significant mental health needs home without the necessary support. We have seen families who have felt forced to leave their children in a hospital setting because they worried about the safety of other children in the home and were not given adequate support. We have also seen situations where a child in a residential setting received considerable support, but as soon as that same child moves home the family is expected to manage their care with virtually no support at all. No parent wants to make these difficult decisions, and no family should be forced to.

No one is served when a family is reported for child protection under these circumstances. We strongly support this bill.

Sincerely,

Multicultural Autism Action Network

Fatima Molas  
Delia Samuel  
Rufo Jiru  
Maren Christenson Hofer