

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Health & Human Services Committee  
Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
8:30 am Livestream YouTube

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### Minutes

**Present:** Senator Melissa H. Wiklund – Chair, Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator Paul Utke – Minority Lead, Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Liz Boldon, Senator Mark Koran, Senator Rob Kupec, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Lindsey Port

**Absent:** Senator John Hoffman

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Chair Wiklund called the meeting to order at 8:34 am on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #1: Senate File 1025 (Abeler): Foster children receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits trust establishment and appropriation**

The first item on the agenda was Senate File 1025, authored by Senator Abeler as follows:

#### **Senate File 1025 (Abeler): Foster children receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits trust establishment and appropriation**

Senator Abeler provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1025 to the committee.

Senator Abeler moved the A1 Amendment.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

#### ***The following individuals testified on Senate File 1025:***

- Hoang Murphy, founder of Foster Advocates and former foster youth, testified on Senate File 1025.
- Hannah Planalp, Assistant Ombudsperson for Foster Youth with the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson, and a former foster youth, testified on Senate File 1025.
- Stacy Hennen, Executive Director of Western Prairie Human Services, Director of Traverse County Social Services, and Legislative Lead for the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators, testified on Senate File 1025.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1025, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #2: Senate File 1013 (Boldon): Head start funding appropriation**

The second item on the agenda was Senate File 1013, authored by Senator Boldon as follows:

#### **Senate File 1013 (Boldon): Head start funding appropriation**

Senator Boldon provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1013 to the committee.

#### ***The following individuals testified on Senate File 1013:***

- Jillayne Schuder, Family and Community Engagement Manager for the Rochester HeadStart and Early HeadStart Program, testified in support of Senate File 1013.

- Alexandra Fitzsimmons, Senior Policy Director with Children's Defense Fund Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File 1013.
- Amanda Mata, Private Citizen and Parent of a Head Start and Early Head Start program participant, testified in support of Senate File 1013.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1013 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**AGENDA ITEM #3: Senate File 2346 (Boldon): Youth intervention programs appropriation**

The third item on the agenda was Senate File 2346, authored by Senator Boldon as follows:

**Senate File 2346 (Boldon): Youth intervention programs appropriation**

Senator Boldon provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 2346 to the committee.

***The following individuals testified on Senate File 2346:***

- Paul Meunier, Executive Director of the Youth Intervention Programs Association, testified in support of Senate File 2346.
- Nikki Beasley, Executive Director of the Conflict Resolution Center, testified in support of Senate File 2346.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Boldon provided closing comments on Senate File 2346.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 2346 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**Chair Wiklund passed the gavel to Senator Mann who assumed the role of Chair.**

**AGENDA ITEM #4: Senate File 2042 (Wiklund): Direction to the commissioner of children, youth, and families to conduct a statewide needs assessment for out-of-school and youth programming and appropriation**

The fourth item on the agenda was Senate File 2042, authored by Senator Wiklund as follows:

**Senate File 2042 (Wiklund): Direction to the commissioner of children, youth, and families to conduct a statewide needs assessment for out-of-school and youth programming and appropriation**

Senator Wiklund moved the A1 Amendment.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Senator Wiklund provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 2042, as amended, to the committee.

***The following individuals testified on Senate File 2042:***

- Brian Fullman, Lead Organizer with the Barbershop and Black Congregation Cooperative of Isaiah, testified in support of Senate File 2042.
- Sedrick McBound, Member of the Barbershop and Black Congregation Cooperative with Isaiah & Founder of JOG Foundation, testified in support of Senate File 2042.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Wiklund provided closing comments on Senate File 2042, as amended.

**Chair Mann laid over Senate File 2042, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**Chair Mann passed the gavel back to Senator Wiklund who assumed the role of Chair.**

**AGENDA ITEM #5: Senate File 1049 (Maye-Quade): Funding provision for early learning scholarships**

The fifth item on the agenda was Senate File 1049, authored by Senator Maye-Quade as follows:

**Senate File 1049 (Maye-Quade): Funding provision for early learning scholarships**

Senator Maye-Quade provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1049 to the committee.

***The following individuals testified on Senate File 1049:***

- Andrew Schultz, Private Citizen whose family is an early learning scholarship recipient, testified in support of SF 1049.
- Maria Steen, Childcare Connection Director with CAP Lakes and Prairies, testified in support of Senate File 1049.
- Amanda Reed, Owner of Milestones Daycare and Virginia Drop-in Daycare, testified in support of Senate File 1049.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Maye-Quade provided closing comments on Senate File 1049

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1049 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**AGENDA ITEM #6: Senate File 1897 (Kupec): Childcare improvement grants appropriation**

The sixth item on the agenda was Senate File 1897 authored by Senator Kupec as follows:

**Senate File 1897 (Kupec): Childcare improvement grants appropriation**

Senator Kupec provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1897 to the committee.

***The following individuals testified on Senate File 1897:***

- Suzanne Pearl, Minnesota Director for First Children's Finance, testified in support of Senate File 1897.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1897 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**AGENDA ITEM #7: Senate File 1547 (Kunesh): Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson appropriation**

The seventh item on the agenda was Senate File 1547 authored by Senator Kunesh as follows:

**Senate File 1547 (Kunesh): Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson appropriation**

Senator Kunesh provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1547 to the committee.

***The following individuals testified on Senate File 1547:***

- Misty Coonce, Ombudsperson with the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson, testified in support of Senate File 1547.
- Vivian Dudley, Private Citizen and Former Foster Youth, testified in support of Senate File 1547.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Kunesh provided closing comments on Senate File 1547.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1547 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**AGENDA ITEM #8: Senate File 1548 (Kunesh): Northstar Care for Children benefits modification for children under the age of six and children transferred into the Northstar Care for Children**

The eighth item on the agenda was Senate File 1548 authored by Senator Kunesh as follows:

**Senate File 1548 (Kunesh): Northstar Care for Children benefits modification for children under the age of six and children transferred into the Northstar Care for Children**

Senator Kunesh provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1548 to the committee.

***The following individuals testified on Senate File 1548:***

- Sadie Hart, Policy and Advocacy Director with the Ain Dah Yung Center, testified in support of Senate File 1548.
- Mikayla Maxwell, Private Citizen and Relative Foster Provider, testified in support of Senate File 1548.
- Josh Kroll, Program Manager of the Adoption Subsidy Resource Center with Families Rising, testified on Senate File 1548.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Kunesh provided closing comments on Senate File 1548.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1548 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**AGENDA ITEM #9: Senate File 1898 (Kunesh): Fiscal analysis of the child welfare system requirement**

The ninth item on the agenda was Senate File 1898, authored by Senator Kunesh as follows:

**Senate File 1898 (Kunesh): Fiscal analysis of the child welfare system requirement**

Senator Mann moved the A1 Amendment.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Senator Kunesh provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 1898, as amended, to the committee.

***The following individuals testified on Senate File 1898:***

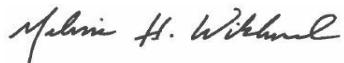
- Dr. Traci Laliberte, PhD, MSW, Executive Director of the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work Multidisciplinary Institute for Child Welfare, testified in support of SF 1898.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Kunesh provided closing comments on Senate File 1898, as amended.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1898, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**Chair Wiklund adjourned the meeting at 10:25am**



Senator Melissa H. Wiklund



Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant