



March 20, 2025

RE: SF1547 | Funding for the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson

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

The Minnesota Children's Alliance strongly supports SF1547, which appropriates funding for the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson (OOFY) to hire additional full-time employees dedicated to conducting outreach and advocacy for foster youth.

OOFY plays a crucial role in ensuring that foster youth have a voice in their care by actively listening to their concerns, addressing their needs, and providing critical information and resources. The Minnesota Children's Alliance represents a network of Children's Advocacy Centers and multidisciplinary teams that investigate child abuse cases. When allegations of abuse arise, children are often placed in foster care for their safety if their parents are unable to provide adequate care. Following investigations, some children transition into permanent foster placements, a process that can be profoundly traumatic.

To effectively serve foster youth, OOFY must have the necessary resources to meet the increasing demand for support services. Additional staffing will allow the office to respond to concerns more efficiently, ensuring that all foster youth receive the advocacy and assistance they deserve.

We ask that you support this important legislation. Thank you for your commitment to the well-being of Minnesota's children and youth.

Sincerely,

Marcia Milliken

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