



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

March 18, 2025

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

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family service providers and very supportive of SF1548 to provide Northstar Care for Children benefits to families who welcome a child under the age of six through kinship or MIFPA permanency.

Community-based foster care providers have long advocated for a change in this policy, observing that it created a barrier or prolonged establishing permanency for a child. Northstar benefits can make a meaningful difference for families over the short and long-term. Prioritizing kinship is important throughout our child welfare system as is equipping our kinship caregivers with resources needed to maintain stability and wellbeing.

AspireMN is grateful to Senator Kunesh and this committee for seeking to address this longstanding barrier for 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.

1919 University Avenue W. #450, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104