

HENNEPIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 20, 2025

Chair Melissa Wiklund
Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for SF 1548

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

I write to express Hennepin County Board of Commissioners' support of SF 1548, the modification to Northstar Care for Children for foster children under the age of 6 who reach permanency with relatives.

Northstar Care for Children helps children in foster care grow up in safe and permanent homes. It provides medical and financial benefits for children in foster care and for eligible children finding permanency through an adoption or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative.

Currently, children in foster care who reach permanency under the age of 6 receive 50% of the financial benefits that children 6 and older receive. SF 1548 would eliminate this alternate rate for children under the age of 6 who reach permanency with relatives.

At Hennepin County we have made it a priority to reduce the significant cost burden of child care for working families and removing barriers in foster care. Thank you, Senator Kunesh, for authoring SF 1548 and we support the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando

Irene Fernando, Chair
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
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