



**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
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Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

SF1898 presents a critical opportunity to review and understand Minnesota's child welfare investments at the federal, state and local levels. There is truly no better time to conduct this analysis. Minnesota is frequently referenced as one of the states with the lowest investment in our child welfare system and the greatest reliance on county property tax to fund child wellbeing supports.

As the Department of Children, Youth, and Families is established we have an opportunity to set the stage to improve equitable access to vital services and assure a statewide response for families in need of support. Practices that support family preservation and effective early intervention strategies should be available statewide. Instead, services that deliver meaningful and effective outcomes for children and families are often available based on the property tax base of a family's county of residence.

The fiscal analysis that will be produced by SF1898 will allow for a transparent discussion involving all parties as we delve into critical questions of how to invest in an equitable, statewide future for Minnesota's child welfare system.

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.**

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