

March 20, 2025

Senator Wiklund  
Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 1898 – Child Welfare Fiscal Analysis

Dear Senator Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Agencies (MACSSA) and the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), we offer support for SF 1898, a bill that directs the Commissioner of Children, Youth and Families to conduct a Child Welfare fiscal analysis, program and practice evaluation with program recommendations.

Minnesota is a state supervised, and country administered system, including 11 sovereign tribal nations and 87 counties. The funding mechanisms and frameworks for child welfare funding are complex. In Minnesota, counties carry a greater level of funding of services than the state, using local tax levy dollars. Based on a 2023 report from [Child Trends](#), Minnesota ranks in the bottom 10 of states for state investments in child welfare. Further estimates indicate that Minnesota counties are responsible for between 41 - 45% of the funding in the child welfare area, with the state and federal government sharing the remaining amount.

Notably, there are areas where Minnesota may not be capturing federal funds available or sharing and disbursing federal and state funds in equitable ways across the state. Also, opportunities exist where Minnesota could build capacity and knowledge to better invest in preventative services to help children and more effectively develop an array of services to meet child and family needs. Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) is an example of this – the federal law passed over six years ago and unfortunately, while Minnesota as a system has implemented out of home placement policy requirements, as a state, we have yet to benefit from Title IVE funding available through implementing prevention services, due largely to claiming and administrative challenges.

AMC and MACSSA strongly support a comprehensive fiscal analysis of Minnesota's child welfare system, with accompanying program recommendations and urges lawmakers to support this critical work.

Sincerely,



Angie Thies  
Child Wellbeing Policy Analyst  
Association of Minnesota Counties



Matt Freeman  
Executive Director, MACSSA  
Human Services Policy Analyst, AMC

Cc: Senator Mary Kunesch