

March 18, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

North Homes Children and Family Services provides a comprehensive range of services to at-risk youth and their families across northern Minnesota. Our work encompasses prevention, intervention, and treatment, focusing on mental health, behavioral health, and family stability. We offer services such as outpatient therapy, crisis intervention, youth mentoring, and supportive housing, all aimed at empowering young people to achieve their full potential and build healthy, resilient lives.

Receiving a Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) grant through HF2362 would significantly enhance our ability to serve youth facing complex challenges. Specifically, these funds would allow us to expand our outreach and prevention programs, providing earlier intervention for youth at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system, or experiencing mental health crises. The grant would also support the development of innovative, culturally responsive programs tailored to the unique needs of our rural communities, ensuring that all youth have access to essential support services. This funding would allow us to increase staffing to meet the growing need for youth mental health services, and provide training for staff in evidence-based practices.

We strongly urge the committee to fully fund the Youth Intervention Programs grant as outlined in HF2362. This investment in our youth is an investment in the future of our communities, and will have a lasting positive impact on the lives of countless young people.

Sincerely,

Melissa Vatnsdal

Grants Manager
North Homes Children and Family Services