



## Minnesota Coalition FOR FAMILY HOME VISITING

Senator Melissa Wiklund  
Health & Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 1100  
SF2506/HF2213: Children's Mental Health Act Update

Thursday, March 27, 2025

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

The Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting (MCFHV) urges you to support SF2506/HF2213, to invest in children's mental health and the provider workforce by establishing mental and behavioral health grants and programming in the education system. We believe this strategy will offer stability to help children be successful in school and support the health and wellbeing of young children, their caregivers, and families.

When addressed and treated early in a child's life, mental health interventions are shown to prevent the need for additional medication, saving costs and mitigating the lifelong impact of mental health challenges on the child's cognitive, physical and emotional development.

Investing in school-based mental and behavioral health grant programs will help more families access critical support needed to help their child be successful in school. We must support a continuum of care that supports the mental health and wellbeing of all members of the family—including Minnesota's scholars and future leaders.

Piecemealed grants and low Medicaid reimbursement rates oftentimes make treating families on Medical Assistance unaffordable for some mental health providers. The financial burden on providers and families is further exasperating an already strained workforce. Minnesota cannot afford to have people leave the field or have agencies close because they cannot afford to pay staff and provide services to families.

Please join the Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting in addressing the rising mental health concerns in Minnesota by supporting SF2506/HF2213, to improve access to critical preventative and early intervention mental health services for children and families.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paula Frisk,  
Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting, Chair  
St. David's Center for Child & Family Development  
Program Director of Parent & Child Services  
Mental Health Practitioner & Infant-Parent Specialist  
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