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March 25th, 2025

RE: Support for SF2349

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), I write to express our strong support for SF2349. SF2349 provides much-needed investments in Minnesota's children's mental health system and takes critical steps toward improving the continuum of care for youth with complex needs.

Counties are on the front lines of delivering mental health services, and we recognize the urgent need to address funding gaps, expand crisis stabilization services, and support children's residential facilities. The investments outlined in SF2349 are essential to ensuring that children and families have timely access to appropriate mental health care in their communities.

As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will help counties to leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions. To implement this framework, participating counties have identified legislative changes that will have an immediate and positive impact, including the formation of a legislative task force to:

- Revise and update Minn. R. 2960
- Address placement options for youth
- Removing the moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Begin to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

MACCAC fully supports SF2349 and its comprehensive approach to strengthening Minnesota's mental health system for children and families. We urge your support for SF2349 and stand ready to assist in its advancement.

Emilio Lamba

Emilio Lamba, Legislative Director
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties