



**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
[www.aspiremn.org](http://www.aspiremn.org)

April 8, 2025

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

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family service providers. Addressing the crisis in access to children's mental health remains our most urgent priority.

Thank you for investing in outpatient Medicaid rates – this is the foundational solution to the crisis in access to children's mental health care. We are incredibly grateful for both the inclusion of the assessment that will provide funding for this needed investment with an approach that benefits the whole.

We want to highlight the importance of the Child Welfare Fiscal Analysis legislation in your omnibus. It is critical to have a shared and full understanding of where we have state and county spending on child welfare, where we may have opportunity to leverage additional federal resources, and ultimately how we can develop an equitable statewide child welfare that is not dependent on county property taxes.

Our children are boarding in hospitals, detention and with counties – they are bearing the burden of our lack of investment in children's services. Thank you for advancing solutions through investments in:

- Decompression funding for children boarding through a pilot within the Mental Health Collaboration Hub
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Working Group to review Minnesota's PRTF benefit and make recommendations to expand quality service delivery to more children and families
- Including access to Certified Family Peer Specialists who can often make "all the difference" for families as they support their child with treatment and skill building to improve their mental health

We appreciate your inclusion of School-Linked Behavioral Health Grants to address the funding cliff for this excellent model of mental health service integration that supports students, teachers and families. Thank you also for the fix to address a Children's Mental Health – Targeted Case Management billing oversight to assure Medicaid and statute align in providing care for youth aged 18 to 21.

Finally, support for relative kin caregivers who are providing the majority of foster care placements statewide is an ongoing priority and we are grateful for the flexibilities built into this omnibus for kinship licensing and support.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Anderson".

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.**