



February 11, 2025

Dear Chair Hoffman and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

- **We write in support of SF 1175 (Boldon, Kupec, Coleman, Miller):** Presumptive disability determination process for medical assistance eligibility establishment.

Gillette Children's operates an independent, nonprofit, specialty care, 60-bed pediatric hospital in St. Paul along with pediatric specialty clinics across Minnesota, including clinics in Burnsville, Maple Grove, St. Paul, Baxter, Bemidji, Duluth, Willmar and Mankato.

We serve children with complex disabilities, rare conditions, and traumatic injuries with a focus on brain, bone and movement conditions needing specialized expertise. Each year, we treat patients from all 87 Minnesota counties.

Gillette Children's participates in the state's current hospital presumptive eligibility program which allows participating hospitals to determine temporary eligibility for Medical Assistance. This legislation expands the presumptive eligibility option to allow hospitals to make a presumptive determination of disability based on condition. Disability would be presumed for conditions included on Minnesota's Newborn Screening Panel. Disability would also be presumed for conditions included on the Social Security Administration's list of compassionate allowances, which is comprised of diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet the Social Security Administration's standards for disability benefits.

Presumptive eligibility provides access to Medical Assistance coverage without having to wait for an application to be fully processed. This can prevent delays in care, which is important for conditions that have a narrow window of time for treatment, such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), where timely administration of therapies can prevent the rapid and irreversible loss of motor function caused by the disease.

We ask that you support this legislation. Please reach out to Marnie Falk, Gillette's Director of Public Policy, with any questions at [marniefalk@gillettechildrens.com](mailto:marniefalk@gillettechildrens.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Joers", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barbara Joers  
President and CEO