

Dear Legislative Committee Members:

I write to support SF942 being heard in your committee. This bill supports community driven services to address situations where children are deemed to be habitually truant and provides flexibility for counties seeking to utilize a community provider to address the underlying causes of truancy within a family.

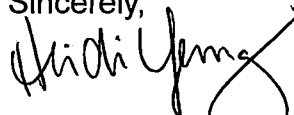
Currently, counties and the county child welfare agency are limited in their response options when providing a child welfare response. This bill changes the statute to allow a county to provide a response to a truancy report using a community-based organization or other community partner to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate responses to meet the needs of the family.

Understanding the underlying challenges within a family that lead to truancy takes time and trust. Providing a means to serve the family through a community led organization or partner widens the pool of available supports to the family – and can often result in the formation of a lasting and wrap around support mechanism that the family can work with and rely on for other needs as well.

I support this bill and its focus on accessibility and supportive resources for children and families in Minnesota.

We urge this committee to pass this bill to best support Minnesota's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Young", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Heidi Young, LSW

Wabasha County Social Services Children's Lead  
411 Hiawatha Dr. East  
Wabasha, MN 55981