



Association of
Minnesota Counties



MACSSA
Minnesota Association of County
Social Service Administrators

March 19, 2025

Senator Latz
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 942

Dear Senator Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Agencies (MACSSA) and the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), we offer support for SF 942, a bill that statutorily authorizes a child welfare response for habitual truancy.

In Minnesota, the role of child protection includes addressing concerns of educational neglect and habitual truancy. Approaching educational concerns in this way pulls families into the deepest end of our service continuum when a child welfare approach could address the barriers many families are facing related to education. Families living in poverty and families of color disproportionality enter the child protection system in every category of maltreatment, however the rate is particularly high with educational neglect reports. By allowing for a child welfare response by a local social service agency or a designated community partner, counties will be positioned to review and respond in the most appropriate manner, while reserving the option to engage child protection as needed. Providing a means to serve families through a child welfare or community led organization increases the availability of supports for families to access. Offering a child welfare response to families can help build partnership and protective factors to reduce the risk of these families later entering the child protection system. In Minnesota in 2020, roughly 70% of educational neglect reports involved children of color, whereas they represent only 36% of the enrolled student population. American Indian children represented 11% of children referred for educational neglect despite representing less than 2% of enrolled student population. Similarly, multi-racial children represented 21% of children reported for educational neglect; they represented only 6% of the enrolled student population.

AMC and MACSSA strongly support SF 942 and the accompany appropriation to further support implementation of community-based programming like Community and Family Resource Centers that strengthens families and prevents the need for deeper end system involvement. We urge lawmakers to support this impactful statutory change.

Sincerely,

Angie Thies
Child Wellbeing Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Freeman
Executive Director, MACSSA
Human Services Policy Analyst, AMC

Cc: Senator Mary Kunesch