



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families
www.aspiremn.org

March 25, 2025

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

We are grateful to Senator Seeberger for authoring SF2546 and to your committee for considering this critical legislation. This proposal addresses the crisis of children boarding in detention by investing in needed mental health services in detention settings and supporting the transition of children to community from detention in a way that helps to assure stability and prevent recidivism.

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family serving organizations – all grappling with the ongoing crisis in access to children’s mental health and related services to meet child and family need. The association supports this legislation as a key step forward to equip our full child and family serving continuum to address immediate mental health needs and prevent the cycle of crisis too many children have been stuck in through the use of boarding instead of delivery of community-based care.

The use of detention as a safety net for our sickest children is to the detriment of all of us. Children deserve opportunities to grow, learn and participate in the treatment services that are best suited for their futures.

We are all invested in solutions that respond to the individualized needs of children and families – to support achievement of developmental milestones and stabilization for healthy contributing lives in community. SF2546 is an important step forward – leveraging best practices of integrating mental health services and supporting transitions that include family and youth participation and use natural supports to ground children and families more deeply in supportive community life.

Thank you for your leadership.

Warm regards,

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.

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