



March 18, 2024

Dear Rep. Nash,

I am writing to express support from the Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs for your bill, HF 4793, aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of children in camp facilities. As an organization deeply committed to the welfare of young people, we believe that every child deserves to feel safe and protected, especially when participating in recreational activities away from home.

Your proposed legislation to mandate the reporting of alleged maltreatment of children while under the care of licensed or unlicensed camp facilities aligns perfectly with our core values and mission. At every YMCA we prioritize the safety and security of every child who participates in our camp and adventure programs. At the Y of the North, as the largest camping organization in the country serving over 40,000 children a summer, this is critical. We believe that transparency and accountability are essential elements in safeguarding children and preventing instances of maltreatment.

By requiring camp facilities to report any suspected incidents of maltreatment, your bill serves as a crucial step towards ensuring that appropriate action is taken promptly to address any concerns and protect vulnerable children. We commend your dedication to championing the rights and well-being of our youth through this legislation.

Moreover, the YMCAs are fully committed to supporting and complying with any regulations or guidelines that promote the safety and welfare of children in camp settings. We believe in fostering a culture of openness, trust, and responsibility within our organization to provide the best possible environment for all participants.

If there is any additional information or support we can provide to further the progress of your bill, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We stand ready to collaborate with you and other stakeholders to advance the cause of child safety and protection in camp facilities.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to this important issue. Your leadership in advocating for the safety of children is truly commendable, and we are grateful for your efforts.

Sincerely,

David Donnick

Director of Public Policy

Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs