

April 9, 2018

Dear Health and Human Services Finance Committee members:

On behalf of Nexus, a national, nonprofit provider of Youth and Family Solutions ("Nexus"), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for HF 3134, Children's Residential Treatment Payment Provisions.

Nexus provides an array of individualized mental health services for youth with emotional and behavioral issues through residential treatment programs, outpatient services, home-and-community based services, and foster care throughout Minnesota.

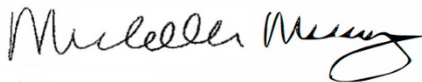
Nexus is headquartered in Plymouth, Minnesota, and currently operates three residential treatment programs in Minnesota, serving more than 200 boys and girls each day in the following locations:

- Gerard Academy in Austin, Minnesota, provides services for boys and girls, ages 6-19;
- Mille Lacs Academy in Onamia, Minnesota, provides services for adolescent boys, ages 10-19; and
- Nexus Glen Lake in Minnetonka, Minnesota, provides services for teen girls, ages 14-19, on the site of the Hennepin County Home School.

Residential treatment provides services for youth in our state who cannot get their needs met through a less-restrictive and/or community-based level of care. Daily, we have more than 100 youth waiting for openings in our programs. Providing an extension of the payments for residential treatment services until July 2021 guarantees that Minnesota youth will have a safe and effective place to receive care while the State undertakes the redesign of Minnesota's Intensive Mental Health Services for Children.

Nexus and all the children and families that we work with thank you for your support in extending this provision.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michelle K. Murray
Interim CEO and Chief Clinical Officer