



**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
[www.aspiremn.org](http://www.aspiremn.org)

February 24, 2025

Dear Chair West and Members of Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family service providers and very supportive of HF1276 to provide Northstar Care for Children benefits to families who welcome a child under the age of six through kinship or MIFPA permanency.

Community-based foster care providers have long advocated for a change in this policy, observing that it created a barrier or prolonged establishing permanency for a child. Northstar benefits can make a meaningful difference for families over the short and long-term. Prioritizing kinship is important throughout our child welfare system as is equipping our kinship caregivers with resources needed to maintain stability and wellbeing.

AspireMN is grateful to Rep. Hicks and this committee for seeking to address this longstanding barrier for children and families.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Anderson".

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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