



March 25, 2026

Representative Kotyza-Witthuhn and Representative West  
Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee  
Centennial Office Building (COB)  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF 4174 – Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP)

Dear Representative Kotyza-Witthuhn, Representative West and Members of the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee:

*On behalf of Minnesota's counties, we offer enthusiastic support for HF 4174, Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) funding.*

This investment reflects a practical, prevention focused approach to strengthening families and reducing child maltreatment risk before crisis intervention is required. Research supports the importance of reaching families early before involvement in the child protection system. Voluntary, community-based supports can stabilize households, [strengthen protective factors](#), increase child safety and improve long-term outcomes for children.

The Parent Support Outreach Program fills a critical gap in Minnesota's continuum of care. This program helps increase protective factors, reduce system entry, avoid more costly interventions, and support healthier family functioning. This approach aligns with county priorities to shift upstream, invest in prevention, and deploy resources more effectively across child and family-serving systems.

Without dedicated funding, counties are forced into a reactive model, intervening only after a report that a child is unsafe. This increases risk, costs, disruptions for children and families, and family instability. PSOP also aligns with broader state and federal expectations to strengthen prevention, reduce unnecessary system involvement, and improve outcomes for children and families.

Sustainable, ongoing funding is necessary to ensure consistent access across counties and to avoid patchwork availability that depends on local resources. Without this investment, prevention capacity will remain uneven, and pressure on the child protection system will continue to grow.

We respectfully urge your support of HF 4174.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angie Thies".

Angie Thies  
Child Wellbeing Policy Analyst  
Association of Minnesota Counties

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Verrette".

Paul Verrette  
Director, MACSSA  
Human Services Policy Analyst, AMC

Cc: Representative Hanson