

COALITION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

March 5, 2021

Education Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

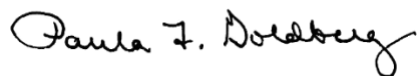
Chair Richardson and Members of the Education Policy Committee:

On behalf of the PACER Center and the Coalition for Children with Disabilities, I am writing to share the Coalition's strong support for House File 1083. We appreciate Representative Moller's proposal to create a comprehensive school mental health service lead.

Increasing access to mental health has always been a priority for the Coalition. The challenges faces by students during the COVID has only exacerbated the need for mental health services for all children. We hope that the creation of a mental health lead within the Department of Education will increase access to mental health services for Minnesota students. In addition to passing House File 1083, we hope that you will dedicate some of the state's \$1.6 billion surplus into new funding for mental health services for students.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for this important legislation. Please contact Sarah Clarke at sclarke@hyldenlaw.com or 952-201-4654 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Paula Goldberg
Executive Director, PACER Center
Member of the Coalition for Children with Disabilities

Coalition for Children with Disabilities

The Arc Minnesota • Autism Society of Minnesota
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota • Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance • PACER Center
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Minnesota • Proof Alliance