



## SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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**JON ULRICH**, DISTRICT 5

April 14, 2026

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

### **Re: HF 4407 — Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

Scott County is committed to positive outcomes for all children in the child welfare system, including African American and other disproportionately represented children. We also recognize that successful implementation of the Act requires a state ownership of case reviews and the resources necessary for counties to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

#### **State Ownership of the Case Review Process**

Scott County supports restructuring the case review process under Minnesota Statutes, section 260.68. Under the original Act, responsible social services agencies were required to conduct and report their own case reviews—a framework that raised significant questions about consistency, capacity, and objectivity across Minnesota's diverse county systems. Correcting this by clearly placing the systemic monitoring and accountability function with the state, where it belongs, preserves a meaningful and constructive role for county agencies in supplying data and improving practice.

#### **Resourcing for County Implementation**

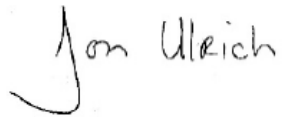
The Act places significant new obligations on counties: active efforts requirements, expanded relative and community placement searches, enhanced case planning and documentation, and participation in the state-led case review process. Meeting these obligations will require additional workers, training, culturally informed community-based services, and administrative infrastructure.

Scott County is committed to implementing the Act with fidelity and achieving better outcomes for children and families, but we cannot do so without the resources to build the necessary capacity. We encourage the Committee to work with the Department and with county stakeholders to develop a funding level that reflects realistic implementation costs, including workforce, service infrastructure, and system changes.

Scott County is committed to working collaboratively with the state, community partners, and our fellow counties to advance the goals of the Minnesota African American Family

Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act. We support a thoughtful, practical approach to implementation that will improve outcomes for African American and disproportionately represented children and their families. We thank the Committee for its leadership on this important issue and welcome the opportunity to discuss our comments further.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Ulrich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jon Ulrich, County Board Chair