



The mission of Safe Passage for Children is to strengthen the Minnesota child welfare system so children are safe and reach their full potential.

March 14, 2022

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee:

We are writing this letter in support of HF 3211, which will establish trust funds for foster children who are entitled to federal benefits.

We believe these monies rightfully belong to children and youth in foster care, and that the current practice by counties of taking them to pay for foster care is neither legal nor ethical.

These funds represent a revenue stream to counties that is relatively small. Their ability to carry out their responsibilities is not dependent on it.

In contrast this income is critically important to foster youth. When they age out of foster care even a few thousand dollars in assets can make a huge difference in whether they transition successfully to independence.

Please vote in favor of HF 3211.

Sincerely,

Rich Gehrman
Executive Director
Safe Passage for Children of Minnesota