



THE SUPREME COURT OF MINNESOTA
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER
25 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

CHAMBERS OF
NATALIE E. HUDSON
CHIEF JUSTICE

(651) 296-3380

April 2, 2024

State Representative Dave Pinto, Committee Chair
House Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy
503 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chair Pinto and Members:

As Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, I am writing in support of H.F. 4697, which, with the proposed delete-all amendment, would authorize a new Supreme Court Council on Child Protection to develop a comprehensive blueprint to improve Minnesota's child protection system.

This initiative represents a significant step forward in our shared commitment to enhancing the well-being of Minnesota's children. The multifaceted challenges facing our child protection system demand a comprehensive and coordinated response. The establishment of the Child Protection Council offers a unique opportunity to bring together expertise from across all branches of government and the community at large. This collaborative approach is crucial for identifying systemic shortcomings and implementing effective solutions that will safeguard the interests of our most vulnerable population.

I am particularly encouraged by the invitation extended to the Judicial Branch to lead this critical initiative. This gesture underscores a recognition of the integral role that the judiciary plays in the child protection ecosystem and affirms our shared responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of children in Minnesota.

I commend the Committee and Representative Pinto for their diligent work on the delete-all amendment to HF 4697 and for their foresight in proposing the establishment of the Child Protection Council. It is a testament to our collective commitment to making tangible improvements in the lives of children who depend on the integrity and efficacy of our child protection system.

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I urge all members of the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee to support this vital piece of legislation. Together, we can forge a path to a more responsive, effective, and compassionate child protection system that truly serves the best interests of Minnesota's children.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing dedication to improving the lives of children and families across our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie E. Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Natalie E. Hudson
Chief Justice

cc: Jeff Shorba,
State Court Administrator