

CHANGE INC.

18 February 2023

To: MN House Human Services Policy Committee
Re: Family-Centered Children's Mental Health bill HF1198
From: Jody Nelson, Ed.D., LMFT; Executive Director; jnelson@thechangeinc.org;

This letter is written in support of bill HF1198 Family-Centered Children's Mental Health.

Change Inc. is a non-profit, community-based agency serving the Twin Cities with a mission to *"utilize the power of relationships and community to create educational, training and healing opportunities for children, youth, young adults and families so that they achieve their highest ambitions."* We envision *"a world in which children, youth and young adults, regardless of their place of birth or financial circumstances, succeed in school and grow to their full potential. In this world, families are embraced by empowered communities."*

Bill HF1198 Family-Centered Children's Mental Health is aligned with Change Inc.'s mission and vision and provides supports to build critical access to care for children and families.

Change Inc. provides school-based mental health services in 30 schools in the Twin Cities and community clinic out-patient services located on the West Side in St. Paul and in Northeast Minneapolis. In my role as Executive Director of Change Inc. and in my 45 years working in the Twin Cities in the area of children's mental health, I can attest to the importance of HF1198 to the well-being of children and families in Minnesota.

Please give your utmost consideration to passing HF1198.

Thank you.



CHANGE
INSTITUTE

GAP
SCHOOL

COMMUNITY
& SCHOOL
COLLABORATIVE

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