



Amelia Many Lightnings
Ogimaakwe Biidaabin Consulting
980 Cary Road
Cloquet, MN 55720
lafaveamelia1@gmail.com
218-481-5444

Aaniin and hello to whom it may concern,

I have been a social worker for twelve years, and while my agency will not support my testimony, I'd like to provide testimony in support of HF1276 as the Ogimaakwe of my business, Biidaabin Consulting, which is a consulting business geared towards partnering with non Native agencies wanting to create allyship and develop programming or curriculum that is culturally responsive to our relatives.

As a social worker, I've seen the negative impacts that Northstar benefits has had for children under 6 to include delaying permanency for children up to two and even three years, while we wait for the child to qualify for the full Northstar benefit that would otherwise be available to them. I'm under the impression that this difference was to increase the lucrativeness of choosing to be a permanency option for older children with the idea that it's easier to achieve permanency for younger children. Anecdotally, this has simply not been true and quite frankly, grossly reduces children to commodities as opposed to the reality that it costs money to raise children. This has been an especially huge barrier when it comes to childcare due to the cost of childcare.

Please let me know what you may need or want from me, or if you have any questions.

Miigwech, thank you,



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