



AspireMN

An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

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Dear Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division,

Thank you for your responsiveness to stakeholder concerns regarding language in HF 3812 to implement the federal Family First Preservation Services Act (FFPSA) and establish a new Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) level of care in Minnesota. When AspireMN and NAMI-MN shared concerns about the harm the language as introduced could create for children, youth and families seeking residential mental health care, this committee tabled the bill with the direction to stakeholders to get to agreement on language.

This letter is to confirm that AspireMN, NAMI-MN and leadership from the Department of Human Services, Child and Family Service Division did work together on language that is now reflected in the amendment to HF 3812 before your committee. We support HF 3812 once amended.

We believe passing the amended HF 3812 will position Minnesota to implement federal requirements and allow for needed planning so that QRTP implementation can clearly benefit all children and youth with mental health treatment needs. Significant work will need to be done to preserve Minnesota's voluntary placement agreements while meeting new federal requirements. We look forward to creative work with DHS, diverse stakeholders, and legislative leaders to design services that reflect Minnesota values in serving children and youth under the new FFPSA federal requirements.

Gratefully,

Kirsten Anderson
Executive Director