

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 26, 2025

Chair West  
House Children and Families Finance Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for HF 1276

Dear Chair West and Members of the House Children and Families Finance Committee:

I write to express Hennepin County Board of Commissioners' support of HF 1276, the modification to Northstar Care for Children for foster children under the age of 6 who reach permanency with relatives.

Northstar Care for Children helps children in foster care grow up in safe and permanent homes. It provides medical and financial benefits for children in foster care and for eligible children finding permanency through an adoption or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative.

Currently, children in foster care who reach permanency under the age of 6 receive 50% of the financial benefits that children 6 and older receive. HF 1276 would eliminate this alternate rate for children under the age of 6 who reach permanency with relatives.

At Hennepin County we have made it a priority to reduce the significant cost burden of child care for working families and removing barriers in foster care. Thank you, Representative Hicks, for authoring HF1276 and we support the passage of this bill out of the House Children and Families Finance Committee.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando

**Irene Fernando, Chair**  
**Hennepin County Board of Commissioners**  
300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0040  
[hennepinD2.com](http://hennepinD2.com) | [hennepin.us](http://hennepin.us)



