



February 17, 2023

Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Services Policy Committee,

As the President and CEO of Nexus Family Healing, I urge the support and passage of HF1198 which addresses the gaps in our mental health system for Minnesotan children and families in a variety of important ways. As an organization that provides services across the continuum from high end residential care to statewide foster care and community-based prevention and treatment services, Nexus Family Healing is highly aware of the gaps in our system and the cost to our children, families, and communities.

We know you share our alarm at the rates of mental health distress in our young people and in our communities. The rate of youth reporting desperation, anxiety and hopelessness is well reported. Many of those youth and their families are falling into the gaps of our current system and have no way to receive the services and connection that will allow them to navigate a path to health and wellbeing.

HF1198 comes at the problem in a variety of ways from increasing access to needed services. These include delivering evidence based effective services when and where they are most needed, ensuring that the mobile crisis teams have the training needed for children in crisis and addressing the needs of youth stranded in emergency rooms in individualized ways.

Thank you for your support of this vital measure to invest in a robust mental health system needed by youth and families across the state.

Sincerely,

  
Michelle Murray, President and CEO  
Nexus Family Healing