



**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
[www.aspiremn.org](http://www.aspiremn.org)

March 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Human Service Finance and Policy Committee,

HF1287 represents critical system improvement to foster care licensing. AspireMN is in full support of this legislation and encourages your Human Services Finance and Policy Committee to actively support passage in 2021.

Community based foster care organizations regularly see the challenges of the current law play out – preventing otherwise capable and loving relatives, kin, and foster families from being able to be licensed to provide care. These loving families too often experience barriers to licensing due to past infractions on their records that do not reflect on their ability to provide care. The system improvements in HF1287 will sustain critical evaluation conducted at licensing regarding the capability and commitment of families seeking to provide foster care, continuing the important practice of fully evaluating potential foster families prior to licensing.

Minnesota has seen a significant increase in kinship caregiving placements in the past years, a trend that is very positive for children and that prompts a need for system changes to reflect this change by actively supporting kinship caregivers. HF1287 makes significant strides that will certainly benefit Minnesota's kinship caregivers.

As our child welfare system continues to evolve in best practice, quality care and loving support for children and youth, HF1287 represents a critical building block for the child welfare system that Minnesota most wants and needs.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Anderson  
Executive Director

**AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.**