

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Dear Members of the House and Senate Capital Investment Committees,

I am writing to ask you to support St. David's Center's request for general obligation bond funding (HF 244/SF 246). St. David's has been a trusted partner of Hennepin County for decades, currently with seven different contracts that provide a spectrum of services including Children's Mental Health Case Management, School Based Mental Health, Early Childhood Home Visiting, Inclusive Early Education and Care Coordination, as well as Reflective Supervision services to support county CPS Supervisors. These services reach county-involved families and children with complex mental health or developmental needs; they support foster and birth parents to develop healthy relationships with their children; and they leverage six decades of clinical expertise as one of our community's most reliable and skilled providers.

It is clear from data and from what we hear from those most affected that children's mental health needs are going unaddressed, and this crisis is only getting worse. Sixty-six percent of mental health providers are shrinking their current services due to inadequate Medicaid rates. This reduction in services is extremely concerning, especially because there are simply not enough services right now to sufficiently meet the needs of children and families who are bearing the brunt of the mental health crisis.

With their expansion into downtown Minneapolis, St. David's is taking a bold step to meet this urgent need by increasing capacity and access to services and focusing on supporting those communities that have historically experienced the greatest health disparities. Their new facility will undoubtedly fill a significant gap in our community, providing a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where children and families from all walks of life can thrive.

I am confident that St. David's can continue to be trusted to provide exceptional, accessible, high-quality care to those who need it most. Their mission and intention to increase capacity for prevention and early intervention services drives right to the heart of what we need as a state – an intentional investment in the well-being of our children and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Michelle Lefebvre





Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed
Superintendent
Hopkins Public Schools

1001 Hwy 7
Hopkins, MN 55305
HopkinsSchools.org

Rhoda.M-Reed@HopkinsSchools.org
952-988-4022 direct

March 21, 2025

Dear Members of the House and Senate Capital Investment Committees,

I am writing on behalf of the Hopkins Public School District to offer our support for HF 244/SF 246, St. David's Center's request for general obligation bond funding for renovation of the 1130 Nicollet Mall facility. St. David's Center's range of services is unique in our community, and they are a necessary part of our state's solution to address early childhood development. With this one-time investment of state resources, 2,000 more children and parents annually will have increased access to much-needed care, and the state will see decreased special education costs in both the short- and long-term through the provision of these early intervention services.

Hopkins School District has had a forty-year partnership with St. David's Center, beginning with collaborative care for children enrolled in their preschool program in the 1980s and our early childhood special education services and, as of a decade ago, extending to children's mental health services that help us address critical needs of our students and their families. St. David's Center is an invaluable asset to our six elementary schools and most recently opened two classrooms for early childhood autism treatment in our facility dedicated to families with young children; across the board, they provide a continuum of care that holistically supports our students.

As a public school superintendent, I see the full spectrum of children who enter our district, from those needing very little additional support to thrive all the way to children who struggle from the moment they enter formal education. If a child or family is seeking support, they may be waiting months to get an appointment as waiting lists for services are incredibly long. By not getting the support and care they need early on, children may experience an increase in behaviors which can have long-term impacts on both their educational and developmental outcomes. The gaps in services for immigrant communities and communities of color continues to be even more startling. St. David's Center's expansion is absolutely critical to address this crisis.



I have the utmost confidence in their plan for growth and in their commitment to meet community needs with innovation, sensitivity, and collaboration. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed
Superintendent Hopkins Public Schools



March 20, 2025

Dear Members of the House and Senate Capital Investment Committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for HF 244/SF 246, St. David's Center's request for general obligation bond funding to support the renovation of 1130 Nicollet Mall. This building will serve as a vital resource for early childhood mental health and developmental therapies for children and families, and it will house a collaborative partnership with the YWCA to continue operating their childcare center. Additionally, the space will provide a hub for whole-family services and community gatherings that support young children and their families.

Our community is facing an urgent need for services that address the rising mental health and developmental needs of children, especially those in historically underserved populations. St. David's Center has long been a leader in child and family development and has been a dedicated partner to Minneapolis Public Schools in serving children and families with compassion, dignity, and flexibility. Their expansion into 1130 Nicollet Mall will increase access to crucial services, particularly for diverse families who are often the hardest to reach and the most in need of support.

The need for quality early intervention services has never been more pressing. These services not only foster children's cognitive, social, and emotional growth but also provide essential support to working parents, promote economic stability, and close the gap in our community's mental health services. Furthermore, early intervention reduces the need for intensive special education services later in a child's life, ultimately saving the state and local jurisdictions significant costs in special education and other related services.

For decades, St. David's Center has remained true to its mission to nurture the development of every child and family. The renovation of the 1130 Nicollet Mall building represents a critical opportunity to scale their services, reaching more families in need and ensuring that Minneapolis remains a community where all children can thrive. Minneapolis Public Schools fully supports initiatives that strengthen the well-being of children and families, and we believe that St. David's Center's expansion will continue to make a lasting, meaningful impact for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this important investment in our community's future.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hillyer, MPA
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Advanced Practice Practitioners

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Kathryn A. Gestach, PA-C
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Morgan A. Abens, CPNP-PC
Madeline A. Janke, PA-C
Abby R. Olson, CPNP-PC

March 19, 2025

Dear Members of the House and Senate Capital Investment Committees,

I am writing to ask for your support for HF 244/SF 246, St. David's request for general obligation bond funding for the expansion and renovation of their facility located at 1130 Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis. As a pediatrician, I recognize the critical importance of early intervention services for young children and families that this organization provides.

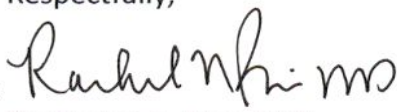
Along with other physicians and psychologists in the community, I am deeply concerned about the needs of children and families that are going unmet. Children and parents are facing increased stressors at home, at school, and in the community. Waiting lists to access services are too long; sometimes taking months to get an initial appointment. St. David's decision to expand their services into downtown Minneapolis addresses this shortage. One of the myriad of benefits of this one-time investment is the location of St. David's facility – right on Nicollet Mall, in the heart of downtown Minneapolis, and accessible by many forms of transportation.

If we are going to meet this need and support our children and families for generations to come, there will need to be significant public-private investments. The public benefit is just too high for philanthropy to bear the full cost.

I have seen firsthand the impact that St. David's has on our community and believe that they are the right organization to invest in given their proven interdisciplinary approach, outstanding results, and anticipated impact. With this expansion and renovation of the new facility, they will increase access to services for 2,000 young children and their parents annually. This incredible impact on our community cannot be understated.

Wayzata Children's Clinic is pleased to be a partner with St. David's to improve access to these vital resources in our community. We know that these services are key to changing a child's trajectory, preparing them for lifelong well-being and success.

Respectfully,


Dr. Rachel N. Bies, M.D.

Wayzata Children's Clinic



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mpls, mn 55402

March 21st, 2025

City of Minneapolis – Community Planning & Economic Development
250 South 4th Street, Room 300
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Subject: Letter of Support for St. David's Application for Minneapolis City Grant funding

To Whom it May Concern,

I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of St. David's Center's application for funding through the City of Minneapolis. As an organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through children's mental health, autism treatment, and developmental therapies, St. David's Center plays a critical role in ensuring a vibrant and inclusive Minneapolis. Their expansion, made possible with city grant funding, will have a transformative impact on our city's business districts and economic development.

St. David's Center's project will further the city's objectives to strengthen commercial development and support equitable economic growth in the short and long-term. St. David's has made their Nicollet Mall building their new headquarters, they have already brought 80 administrative and home and community-based employees downtown from other office sites, and will hire another 150 to 200 employees to scale up services as phases of renovation are completed. Their expansion efforts, supported by this funding, will enhance their ability to deliver critical resources to underserved communities and an ever-increasing waitlist of over 2,000, particularly in areas where families face barriers to accessing early intervention and mental health services.

Longer term, our city will benefit even more, given their longstanding history of addressing the needs of children with developmental challenges and their families by providing high-quality, evidence-based services that bend trajectories for a lifetime of educational achievement, health, and economic prosperity. This investment will contribute to long-term sustainability, create new economic opportunities, and reinforce the city's commitment to inclusive development.

The Minneapolis Downtown Council & DID fully supports St. David's funding request and strongly encourages the city to recognize the significant benefits of this



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investment. Their work aligns seamlessly with the city's goals, and their continued growth will ensure that Minneapolis remains a thriving, equitable community for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Duininck'.

Adam Duininck
President & CEO

March 21, 2025

Dear Members of the House and Senate Capital Investment Committees,

As members of St. David's Center's Capital Campaign Committee, we respectfully urge you to support HF 244/SF 246 for two reasons: 1) waiting lists for assessment and treatment for children's mental health, autism, and developmental delays are longer than ever, and 2) the public benefit resulting from St. David's expansion plan is significant and will save the state in both the short- and long-run.

We know that birth to five, and particularly the first three years of life, is the most critical window of brain development, and yet children across Minnesota are aging out of that window while they wait for services. The demand far outpaces supply, made worse by for- and non-profit organizations constricting, limiting access for families on Medicaid, or closing. St. David's has more than 2,100 young children currently waiting for developmental and mental health therapies. They have been out of space at their center in Minnetonka and smaller satellite clinic within Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. After careful due diligence, their board and leadership took the bold step of purchasing a 105,000 square foot building on Nicollet Mall, formerly owned by the YWCA, with a vision to renovate it to be a solution for 2,000 more children and parents annually.

This request for general obligation bond funding is necessary for St. David's to reach more children. The project is shovel-ready as soon as funds are in place, with a design that transforms what has been mostly an underutilized fitness center into an early childhood center for young children who, with early intervention, will enter kindergarten without the need for intensive and costly school district services. We commend their board and leadership for their clarity, courage, and a deep commitment to improving outcomes for all children and decreasing disparities for low-income and BIPOC children. We are compelled by the unmet need and the lost potential, when an investment today could make all the difference.

As people working in Minnesota's business community, as parents, and as concerned community members, we value this organization's demonstrated success rate. We also clearly see not only the return on investment of \$10 million in bond funding when 2,000 Minnesota children and parents will be served annually into perpetuity, but also the immense public benefit in this investment: reduced special education costs, reduced academic remediation costs, reduces social services costs, reduced likelihood of juvenile delinquency and dropping

out, increased participation in the workforce, increased likelihood of continuing education, and improved lifelong health outcomes.

With nearly \$9 million raised to date, we are wholeheartedly committed to raising the additional \$13 million necessary to reflect the community will behind this expansion. However, philanthropy alone cannot cover the full cost. In order for St. David's to expand this significantly, they need both public and private support.

Access to these services will truly bend the trajectories of these children's and families' lives toward their full potential as community members for decades to come.

Thank you for considering St. David's request for general obligation bond funds. By supporting this important endeavor, we can all create a more vibrant and resilient community.

Ben Hawn
Pohlad Companies
Wayzata Constituent

Betsy Hawn
Robin Ross Farms
Wayzata Constituent

Dave St. Peter
Minnesota Twins
Chanhassen Constituent

John Marshall
Xcel Energy

Chris Simmons
UnitedHealth Group
Plymouth Constituent

Jana Simmons
Community Volunteer
Plymouth Constituent

John Church
Retired, General Mills
Wayzata Constituent

Klerissa Church
K. Church Consulting
Wayzata Constituent

Anders Folk
Jones Day
Minneapolis Constituent

Jeb Morrison
Callanish Capital
Hopkins Constituent

Ali Lockhart
Community Volunteer
Edina Constituent

Cynthia MacMillan
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Wayzata Constituent

Frankie Bennett
Artesian Capital
Wayzata Constituent

Dennis Knoer
Taft Law
Edina Constituent