



March 20, 2023

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

Gillette Children's operates an independent, nonprofit, specialty care, 60-bed pediatric hospital in St. Paul along with pediatric specialty clinics across Minnesota, including clinics in Burnsville, Maple Grove, St. Paul, Baxter, Bemidji, Duluth, Willmar and Mankato.

We serve children with complex disabilities, rare conditions, and traumatic injuries with a focus on brain, bone and movement conditions needing specialized expertise. Each year, we treat patients from all 87 Minnesota counties.

We are grateful for the inclusion of several provisions in the Governor's Budget Recommendations (HF 2930) that will positively impact the patients and families that we serve. Including:

- RARE DISEASE ADVISORY COUNCIL FUNDING (Article 1, Section 11)
- IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (Article 2, Section 41)
- HEALTHY BEGINNINGS, HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT, Developmental and Social Emotional Screening with Follow-up (Article 2, Section 74; Subd. 6)
- COMPREHENSIVE AND COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN (Article 2, Section 76)

Together these provisions will advance equity, access, health and well-being for young children and their families, including children with disabilities and rare diseases. We ask for your support.

Please reach out to Marnie Falk, Gillette's Director of Public Policy, with any questions at marniefalk@gillettechildrens.com.

Thank you.

Handwritten signature of Barbara Joers in black ink.

Barbara Joers
President & CEO

Handwritten signature of Micah Niermann MD in black ink.

Micah Niermann, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Handwritten signature of Tori Bahr MD in black ink.

Tori Bahr, MD
Medical Director, Pediatric Services