



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families
www.aspiremn.org

April 15, 2024

Dear Members of the Human Services Finance Committee,

As a statewide association of children and family services AspireMN members support HF3639 for Minnesota to pursue a Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) federal waiver as an important step forward in developing the continuum of services that children and families need.

We also are grateful for the full elimination of parental fees in HF5228.

Practice and research developments over the past decade reflect enhanced understandings of the role of social determinants of health – nutrition, housing, family employment and related supports as significant in child and adolescent development and overall wellbeing. The opportunity for Minnesota to pursue innovation and access new federal investment to assure that when accessing care that health related social needs (HRSN) are considered as core to the healing and treatment process is tremendous, and likely transformational.

The HRSN benefits of integrating the valuable service of care coordination could also have truly profound impacts for Minnesotans. We also must note the incredible value for the state to receive funding to develop greater infrastructure to support this work.

Finally, as this crisis in access to intensive mental health care continues for children and families, we must emphasize the opportunity for Minnesota to seek flexibilities to invest in children's mental health residential treatment and developing the needed continuum to provide early intervention and individualized care to support children and families to live their best lives.

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.

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