

March 21st, 2022

Re: HF4217

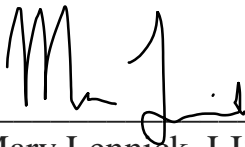
Dear Chair Schultz and Committee Members,

My name is Mary Lennick, and I am the Executive Director at Family Alternatives. We are a private, community-based foster care licensing agency. I am writing in support of HF4217.

It is no secret that foster parents and kinship caregivers play a vital role in caring for children who are unable to remain with their family of origin. As community-based foster care organizations, we see firsthand the importance of recruiting families who are reflective of the communities and culture of the children they are caring for.

For that reason, it is important that we both continue to increase our support for kinship caregivers, as well as our wider foster care providers – as we see outlined in HF4217. HF4217 is critical to the investment of culturally responsive caregiving. When children are unable to remain in the care of their birth parents, children deserve to see themselves reflected in the homes they grow in - HF4217 creates that meaningful possibility.

With appreciation,



Mary Lennick, LISCW
Executive Director