



**Institute to
Transform
Child
Protection**

Mitchell Hamline School of Law 875
Summit Avenue, Room 254 Saint
Paul, MN 55105-3076

phone 651-695-7672
fax 651.290.6407

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Dear Committee Chair Schultz and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Institute to Transform Child Protection, I am writing to express our support of HF 4217.

We believe this piece of legislation will support and provide better guidance for foster parents and kinship caregivers by recruiting foster parents who are akin to the communities, values and customs of the children who are placed in foster care. We have seen in our work at the Institute, that placing a child with caregivers from similar communities and cultures as them, creates a higher likelihood of reunification and a much easier transition for the child. This bill is vital in increasing a more widespread support system for kinship caregivers and foster parents across Minnesota and will encourage placement options that are in the best interest of the children.

We optimistically look forward to the success of this bill and hope to rely on your support.

Sincerely,

Madison Brunk
Minnesota Institute to Transform Child Protection
Mitchell Hamline School of Law Child Protection Clinic