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

March 16, 2026

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family serving organizations with delivery of care in children's mental health, child welfare, and a variety of service models oriented to provide early intervention for families, meet critical needs and promote family preservation.

We encourage your support for SF3970 and the goals of increasing responsiveness to youth as they transition out of foster care and into young adulthood with Extended Foster Care supports. This bill also points to the importance of recognizing challenges for children and youth whose permanency is defined by a Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody (TPLPC). Though this legislation does not fundamentally address the gaps for children and youth with this status, our hope is the bill discussion helps to highlight challenges that can be addressed in coming sessions – including challenges as outlined by the Office of Ombudsperson for Foster Youth (OOFY) with access to health care, family inheritance, and other legal rights and responsibilities afforded to family members that are not granted to children and youth with TPLPC permanency status.

Minnesota continues to strive to improve responses to children and families in need of foster care supports. AspireMN is committed to the values of Quality Parenting Initiative-MN and the promise of enduring system transformation that it points to with commitments to research informed practice, focus on meaningful relationships and reliance on lived experience leadership.

We are grateful for the thoughtful leadership of this committee on behalf of Minnesota's children, youth and families.

Warm regards,

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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