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.

This HHS Committee has provided strong leadership in advancing solutions for children who experience boarding in hospitals, detention or with counties – by addressing the systemic needs for children to access the right care at the right intensity at the right time. SF4388 is a policy-only proposal that improves access to key elements of the children's mental health and including decreasing barriers to intensive service models, including policy improvements for:

- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation by codifying grant language into statue to enhance accountability and transparency in service delivery
- Supports prudent parenting standards to care for children with acute needs requiring residential levels of care
- Children's Therapeutic Supports and Services (CTSS) continued alignment with the full mental health continuum, and, supporting direct access to skill building therapy
- Youth ACT updates for practice and workforce needs to support greater use of this excellent and intensive service model by children and youth with acute need

We encourage support of SF4388 to address continued needed policy improvements for our children's mental health continuum in service to children and families as they seek to access needed treatment to live their best lives in community.

Warm regards,

Kirsten Anderson
Executive Director