Nexus
FAMILY HEALING

Chair Melissa Wiklund
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate

Re: Support for SF 4388 – Children's Mental Health & Solutions Policy

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Nexus Family Healing, we respectfully urge your support for SF 4388, the Children's Mental Health & Solutions Policy bill. This legislation strengthens access to critical children's mental health services and responds to the ongoing crisis resulting from limited community-based care, most notably the increasing number of children boarding in hospitals or entering detention due to unmet mental health needs.

As a Minnesota-based nonprofit serving children and families with complex behavioral health needs, Nexus Family Healing sees firsthand how policy barriers and service gaps delay care and worsen outcomes. SF 4388 addresses these challenges by codifying the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation grant, supporting early identification, skill development, and sustained access to childcare, key components of effective prevention and early intervention.

The bill also removes barriers for highly acute children by establishing a prudent parenting standard for those living in group homes, supporting stability and appropriate decision-making in less restrictive settings. In addition, SF 4388 improves consistency across community-based mental health services by clearly defining skills group size and allowing direct access to skills training, enabling children to more quickly develop tools to manage mental health symptoms and prevent crisis escalation.

Finally, updates to Youth ACT strengthen this proven, team-based service model, expanding its ability to help children with acute mental health needs remain safely in their homes and communities rather than in hospitals or detention.

SF 4388 represents a thoughtful and necessary step toward a more responsive, effective children's mental health system in Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Christopher Kokal

Christopher D. Kokal
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