



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

March 4, 2022

Dear Members of the Senate Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

AspireMN supports SF3257 authorizing Children's Minnesota to establish 22 licensed psychiatric inpatient beds. The needs of children requiring inpatient psychiatric support continues to outpace the ability of our continuum to serve. As a consequence of our lack of capacity, children and adolescents are required to wait days and even weeks in emergency departments or be transferred hundreds of miles from home to access needed care – both of these are true tragedies as our children deserve a high level of care to help them respond and recover from mental illness in all of its forms.

As an association of children's service providers AspireMN sees the great need for a robust continuum to meet the needs of children and families. We know that with early treatment at the right level of care that our children and families do better – in the immediate and over the long-term of their life trajectories.

AspireMN is grateful to Children's Minnesota for their leadership in establishing new needed capacity to meet the acute mental health needs of children, adolescents and their families. We extend our gratitude to Representative Her for authoring this important legislation and urge you to support this important step forward as we build a full continuum to meet the mental health needs of our children.

Sincerely,

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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