

May 13, 2021

Dear Health and Human Services Conference Committee Members,

As organizations providing services to children across the state who rely on nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) to access critical services, we submit the following feedback for your consideration.

We ask you to please consider the impact that the changes to the program found in House Article 1, Sections 6, 14, 15, 28, 29, 31 will have on access to safe and reliable NEMT services for children in both the metro area and greater Minnesota.

While we agree that there are areas of the NEMT program that need reform (and we also have some ideas on how the program can be improved for children) it is hard to understand how positive reform can happen with the extensive cuts to the program proposed.

We ask that you please put this proposal on pause this session and spend the time that the Blue Ribbon Commission was not able to spend (understandably under the circumstances of the pandemic) working directly with stakeholders, and most importantly the individuals and families served by this important program, to discuss program improvements focused on access and quality.

Thank you for your service to the state and for your attention to this and to the many other sections of the omnibus bills that impact children.

Sincerely,

AspireMN  
Change Inc  
Children's Minnesota  
CLUES - Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio  
Community University Health Care Center  
Fernbrook Family Center  
Fraser  
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare  
Greater Minnesota Family Services  
Hamm Clinic  
Lighthouse Child & Family Services  
Metropolitan Center for Independent Living (MCIL)  
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD)  
Minnesota Disability Law Center  
Minnesota First Community Solutions

North Homes Children and Family Services  
Northwood Children's Services  
Options Family & Behavior Services  
People Inc.  
Proof Alliance  
South Central Human Relations Center  
St. David's Center for Child & Family Development  
The Hills Youth & Family Services  
The Village Family Service Center  
Therapeutic Services Agency  
This is Medicaid Coalition  
Village Ranch  
Washburn Center for Children