

House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee

Attn: Chair Becker-Finn and Minority Lead Peggy Scott

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Minority Lead Scott,

I am writing in support of the funding request made by Civil Legal Services for the upcoming biennium. As Clinic Manager of CentraCare Pediatrics, we partner with civil legal aid attorneys to support our patients and families with utility assistance and education, unemployment, renting rights, and parental rights to name a few. Attorneys from Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid are professional, well-skilled, and provide zealous advocacy for their clients.

Because I can see the difference that Legal Aid makes to the people we serve, I am aware of the great importance of civil legal aid to our community, and to the entire state of Minnesota. Civil legal aid helps to close the justice gap, promote family safety, ensure individuals' basic needs are met, protects health, and helps the Court system operate more effectively and efficiently.

Due to resource limitations, civil legal aid is not able to meet the enormous demand for their services and is not able to offer competitive salaries relative to other public sector law firms. It is important to fund civil legal aid I fully support their funding request.

Thank you,

Blair Headley, RN
Clinic Manager
CentraCare Pediatric Clinic