



Saint Louis County

Second District Commissioner • 100 N. 5th Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
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Patrick Boyle
County Commissioner

February 24, 2015

Representative Joe McDonald
Minnesota House of Representatives
503 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative McDonald:

As Chair of the St. Louis County Board's Health & Human Services Committee, I intended to testify in support of House File 974 which the Legislature is considering today. At the last minute I was unable to make it, but I want to offer my and St. Louis County's strong support of this bill.

St. Louis County has a program in place called "Superior Babies" which is currently doing much of what is called for in this legislation. Superior Babies has had tremendous success in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) prevention. Screenings for high risk individuals are in place and thus far the program has proven to be a great prevention tool for decreasing the number of babies being born with this devastating disorder. The more the state can invest in prevention programs like this, the greater the savings to taxpayers down the road in ongoing costs of treating individuals who suffer the effects of FASD for their entire lives. This approach is money well spent and I can't think of a better expenditure of public dollars than helping to prevent children from being born with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the life-long implications, not only to them and their families, but also on state wide taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Boyle
St. Louis County Commissioner
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee of the
St. Louis County Board