

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

March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

Please receive this letter of support for HF912, the African American Family Preservation Act.

AspireMN is a statewide associate of children and family serving organizations with delivery of care in children's mental health, child welfare, and a variety of service models oriented to provide early intervention for families, meet critical needs and promote family preservation.

Community-based provider organizations believe HF912 can improve Minnesota's ongoing disparities and address the disproportionate representation of African American children in foster care. This act intends to provide fundamental improvements to the child welfare system while improving family preservation within African American communities.

We encourage the committee to support HF912 and continue to name this important proposal as a critical step forward to improving child welfare in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Anderson Executive Director