



AMHERST H.
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FOUNDATION

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DATE March 23, 2022
TO House Education Finance Committee
FROM Pahoua K. Yang, MSSW, PhD, LICSW, LP
Vice President, Community Mental Health & Wellness
Wilder Foundation

Written Testimony: HF 3979 Mental Health Grant Authorization

Chair Davnie and Committee Members:

Wilder has served children and families with mental health care for nearly 100 years, constantly evolving our services to meet their new and changing needs. Back in 2016, we worked with the Intermediate School District 287 (ISD 287) to create **a brand-new model** of integrated, high-intensity, interdisciplinary mental health services.

In this time, our talented and passionate Therapeutic Teaching Model staff have worked tirelessly to support our communities. Their work has improved and frankly, saved lives. Wrap around services not only serve students when and where they need it most, but also implements a holistic approach that involves connecting parents and family-members with the services they need. This provides increased stability and improves general and mental wellness amongst the entire family.

Now, the Intensive Therapeutic Services Model offers real promise for kids and families who were otherwise being failed by our mental health service system. It is the product of a yearlong, in-depth consultation and three years of piloting, evaluating, and refinement. It is informed by brilliant mental health professionals, passionate educators, and incredible parents and families. It has brought hope to kids, families, and schools that were in survival mode, and made in-roads to lasting change.

Without your support, this model and others like it cannot continue to exist.

School-Linked Mental Health Grants will stabilize & support the continuation of the critical work being done at Setting 4 Special Education Sites across Minnesota.

You can choose to support legislation that makes the right level of care accessible in a sustainable way. Your vote for HF 3979 says that our kids' immediate stability and long-term outcomes are worth investment.

I am urging you to support HF 3979, both in committee and in negotiations with the Senate.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pahoua K. Yang', written in a cursive style.

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