



Dear Chair Fischer, Chair Schultz and Committee Members,

Nexus Family Healing is a child and family social service agency with five agencies serving Minnesota across the full spectrum of a robust service continuum from community based services to statewide foster care to two residential treatment centers. As an organization who has been dedicated to helping close the gaps in the service continuum for 50 years, we urge your support of HF3274.

Nexus Family Healing is actively working towards re-opening the empty facility in East Bethel in order to restore 40 more beds to the residential treatment capacity in the state through a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). The lack of adequate beds for youth who need psychiatric care in 24 hour facilities is creating a backlog in emergency rooms, over use of detention facilities and youth whose mental health is worsening. This is a very expensive problem to Minnesota's systems that deprives youth of the treatment and healing they deserve. Youth who need intensive care must receive it. When they do, they develop resiliency, coping skills, the ability to have healthy relationships and a future full of hope and possibility.

HF3274 will support the efforts DHS is making to partner with agencies like Nexus Family Healing to ensure this resource is there for the youth who need it. Investments are required to allow for an effective workforce within sustainable agency programs. Thank you for your support of the mental health system needed by Minnesotan youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Vimont".

Margaret Vimont  
Vice President of Strategy & Service Development