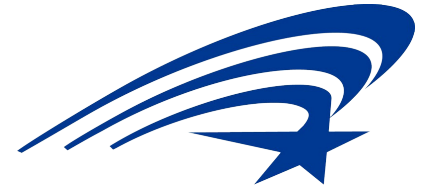


AFSCME



Grassroots Lobby Alert

Protect Kids by Investing in Child Protection and Foster Care

AFSCME's child protection workers are facing big caseloads, high turnover and staffing shortages due to some well-intentioned legislative reforms.

Surging caseloads have led to a shortfall of shelter space and foster homes for kids. Workers' biggest fear is a child coming to harm because we don't have the needed time or resources to protect them.

The Legislature set aside money three years ago to help counties hire more workers, but it wasn't enough to lower caseloads, and it didn't include money for training.

The Legislature must invest more in child protection and foster care. That investment would give us the freedom and ability to intervene earlier and provide higher quality care. Providing proper training would help retain workers, boost morale and decrease caseloads.

Taking these steps would help us better serve Minnesota's children and keep them safe.

TAKE ACTION.

Text **KIDS** to 237263 to be connected to your state legislators, or call your senator at 1-855-420-7709 and your representative at 1-855-432-4270.

ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO:

- Help counties hire, train and retain child protection workers (Support House File 2996 and Senate File 2979).
- Direct the Department of Human Services to recommend caseload standards for screeners, investigators and caseworkers.
- Fund adequate staffing to respond to reports of abuse in the time required by law.

