



The mission of Safe Passage for Children is to rebuild the Minnesota child welfare system so children are safe and reach their full potential.

Safe Passage for Children 2019 Legislative Priorities

Current Situation:

- Approximately 15,000 more children getting child protection help since Governor's Child Protection Task Force in 2015
- Caseloads increased in all parts of the system
- At 26%, state support for child protection & foster care still 2nd lowest nationally

Please support these proposals to strengthen child protection and foster care

1. Infrastructure

- **Child Welfare Training Academy** – HF 499/SF 958 (Kresha/Mathews)
 - Basic resource for a quality child protection/foster care program
 - In Governor's budget
 - \$4.16 million in FY 2020 -21 and \$5.76 million in FY 2022 – 23
- **Support Guardians ad litem and Public Defenders in Governors Budget**
 - \$10.9 million so all eligible children get a guardian
 - Public Defenders \$10 million in FY 2020 and \$21 million in FY 2021
 - Bills expected soon in House and Senate
- **Please vote for racial disparities study by Office of Legislative auditor**

2. Prevention

Great Start for Minnesota Children – HF 1/SF 820 (Pinto/Wiklund): funds two evidence-based programs that reduce maltreatment 25% – 50%

- Targeted Home Visiting
 - \$23 million in 2020, \$41 million in 2021
 - Serves 2800+ more families
- Early Learning Scholarships to all eligible children - no cost numbers yet