



STATE OF IOWA
KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

May 06, 2026

The Honorable Paul Pate
Secretary of State of Iowa
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby transmit:

House File 2256, an Act exempting a parent's or legal guardian's inability to access appropriate behavioral or mental health treatment for their child from the definition of child abuse.

The above House File is hereby approved on this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House



House File 2256

AN ACT

EXEMPTING A PARENT'S OR LEGAL GUARDIAN'S INABILITY TO ACCESS
APPROPRIATE BEHAVIORAL OR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR THEIR
CHILD FROM THE DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE.


BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 232.68, subsection 2, paragraph a,
subparagraph (4), Code 2026, is amended by adding the following
new subparagraph division:

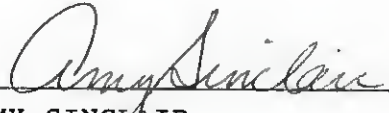
NEW SUBPARAGRAPH DIVISION. (d) If a child has a diagnosed
behavioral health condition and, despite reasonable attempts,
the child's parent or legal guardian is unable to provide
necessary care for the child's health and welfare solely
because the parent or legal guardian is unable to access
appropriate behavioral or mental health treatment for the
child, the department shall not consider the lack of provision
of appropriate behavioral or mental health treatment as child
abuse. This subparagraph division shall not be construed to
prohibit the department from assessing a child's situation and
facilitating appropriate intervention the department deems is
in the best interests of the child.

Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES —
INCORPORATION INTO POLICIES. The department of health and
human services shall adjust the department's child abuse

assessment policies, including the department's policy manuals, to incorporate the provisions of section 232.68, subsection 2, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), subparagraph division (d), as enacted in this Act.

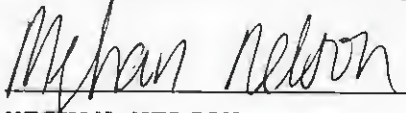


PAT GRASSLEY
Speaker of the House



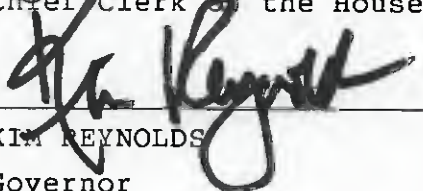
AMY SINCLAIR
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 2256, Ninety-first General Assembly.



MEGHAN NELSON
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved May 6th, 2026



KIM REYNOLDS
Governor