



2/28/2022

Senator Jim Abeler, Chair
Human Services Reform Policy and Finance Committee
Minnesota State Senate

Dear Chair Abeler and Committee Members

I am writing to ask for your support of SF 3010 – behavioral health homes rate structure.

Guild is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization that offers integrated mental health, housing, and employment services to individuals living with mental illness and/or experiencing chronic homelessness. Guild services help individuals find high-quality mental health care, stable housing, and competitive employment right where they live. Each year we serve over 3500 people who live in the seven-county metro area.

Guild is a certified Behavioral Health Home (BHH) since 2016, we serve over 230 people- the largest in the state- in this program each year. Guild supports this bill (SF 3010) because the way the reimbursement is currently set-up places significant administrative burden on both providers and PMAP payers, which the State has not developed technology or work arounds to solve for. Additionally, the rates do not change year to year, which makes this model unsustainable as we continue to seek ways to compensate our staff fairly and provide annual increases to account for performance and cost of living.

We know the model of care works! But we need the payment for BHH to be more accurate to the cost of providing the service.

We believe the rate proposal in SF 3010 will improve BHH access to more clients each year. A new sustainable payment for BHHs is a major step in keeping providers from continuing to lose money providing this service and being forced to consider closing it.

We ask for your support of this bill to strengthen access to this very important piece of our mental health services continuum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie Buhm'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Julie Buhm, CEO