



February 28, 2022

SENATOR JIM ABELER, CHAIR

HUMAN SERVICES REFORM POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Dear Chair Abeler and Members of the Committee

On behalf of Woodland Centers, I am writing to convey our support for and urge the Committee to pass **SF 3010 – behavioral health homes rate structure.**

Woodland Centers is a certified Behavioral Health Home (BHH) since 2016. Our BHH ensures improved access through coordinated care with primary care, behavioral health and social needs for children, families and adults.

Woodland Centers is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) comprehensive community mental health center established in 1958. We serve seven rural counties in the west central region of Minnesota. Woodland Centers BHH services served over 100 individuals in 2021 ranging in age from 6 to 79. The program provided over 880 services in 2021 that helped clients coordinate care across providers, increase compliance with medical and behavioral health recommendations, and reduce recidivism of higher levels of care (including ERs, inpatient hospitalization, and detoxification).

Woodland Centers supports this bill (SF3010) as the current BBH rate structure does not cover the costs for this valuable program. Woodland Centers has had losses in this program each year ranging from \$15,000 to \$35,000 due to the rate structure not supporting the ongoing costs of the program. Woodland

Centers sees a lot of value in BHH services and in order to continue to sustain this program in our region we need the rate structure to reflect the actual cost to provide the services.

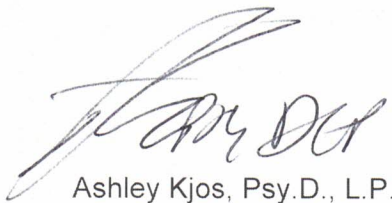
**We know the model of care works! But we need the payment for BHH to be more accurate to the cost of providing the service.** This is more important now than ever as we struggle to meet rapidly growing mental health needs of our communities during this workforce and sustainability crisis.

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, appearing to read "Ashley Kjos".

Ashley Kjos, Psy.D., L.P.

Chief Executive Officer

Woodland Centers