



March 31, 2023

Senator John Hoffman
2111 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St Paul, MN 55103

RE: SF 2934 Human Services Omnibus bill

Chair Hoffman,

On behalf of Hennepin Healthcare, I write in support of several proposals included in your omnibus bill that will address the challenges many Minnesotans we serve face.

As you are aware, we are currently challenged by a lack of community capacity, leading to discharge barriers from our health system and patients staying longer than is medically necessary. These barriers are further exacerbated for our patients with co-existing mental health and substance use disorders (SUD). One of the many leading causes for hospital discharge delays can be attributed to a lack of access to SUD and behavioral health support services. Many of our patients would benefit from the following proposals that aim to increase access to SUD and mental health support services.

- We are greatly appreciative of the funding for **Hennepin Healthcare's Project ECHO** program that provides education and support for providers who care for patients with opioid use disorder (SF 2486/ HF 1634) and funding for new **Project ECHO hubs focused on supporting high quality care in OTPs proposed in the DHS budget.**
- Increasing **Home Care Nursing reimbursement** (SF 7/HF 32 and SF 902/HF 584).
- **Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) rate methodology** reform that breaks apart the current OTP daily bundle and separates the drug component from the rest of the OTP services. We encourage you to include the SF2488 revised payment methodology for opioid treatment programs, as other proposals could result in revenue reductions.
- Addressing the opioid epidemic by dedicating resources to disproportionately impacted communities and providing ongoing **funding for overdose prevention including harm reduction strategies.**
- **Start-up and capacity building grants for withdrawal management** to assist people experiencing withdrawal and safely monitor their health using a medicalized, high - quality model.
- Integrating standards and training for **recovery peers and mental health peers.**
- Investments to ensure people in **sober homes** have access to person-centered, culturally responsive, quality services that support them in their recovery journeys.
- A **demonstration waiver to allow traditional healing practices, behavioral health service in jails, and prison and contingency management.**
- We hope you will reconsider the inclusion of funding for **presumptive eligibility** – other states have shown this is an effective way people can move into community more quickly.



We sincerely appreciate the support you've provided in your proposal to many priority areas. We understand the difficult decisions you must make due to the many competing priorities to improve Minnesota for all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer DeCubellis".

Jennifer DeCubellis
Chief Executive Officer
Hennepin Healthcare System

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