

February 6, 2023

To members of the Honorable 93rd State of Minnesota Legislature,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health to support Minnesota H.F. 586, which would appropriate funding to the Center for Rural Behavioral Health at Minnesota State University, Mankato to establish a mental health training clinic.

By every statistical measure, the mental wellbeing of Minnesotan's children has never been worse. This is coming at a time in which access to behavioral health services has never been more difficult. As this treatment gap between consumers and providers continues to grow, it's important to note that it is not geographically equitable. While children of greater Minnesota have the same emotional challenges of the metro area, they have fewer providers who are trained to help.

The Center for Rural Behavioral Health training clinic would provide a workforce development opportunity that would help grow the number of behavioral health professionals who will serve the current, and next generation of Minnesotans. At the same time, this community-facing training clinic would help meet an unmet need of providing mental healthcare services for the children of southern Minnesota.

While H.F. 586 won't solve all the mental health challenges facing our state, it will go a long way to ensure that the children and families who call greater Minnesota home, will have access to mental healthcare when they need it.

Thank you,



Brandon Jones, M.A., CPPM

He/Him

Executive Director

Office Number: 651-789-8626 | [Email: bjones@macmh.org](mailto:bjones@macmh.org)

Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health

23 Empire Drive, Suite 1000, Saint Paul, MN 55103

www.macmh.org