



Minnesota Hospital Association

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Submitted Electronically

Chair Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), we write in support of SF 1249 (Seeberger), a bill to establish state reimbursement for medical examination costs for sexual assault victims. SF 1249 transitions the current responsibility of reimbursement for criminal sexual assault examinations from the county in which the sexual assault has occurred to the state. The current system requires health care providers to navigate billing processes from each of Minnesota's 87 counties, resulting in inconsistent payment and administration for the necessary medical services. By shifting from a county-based exam reimbursement to a state administered fund, hospitals and health systems can reduce administrative burden, focus on patient care, and can better ensure sustained access to medical-forensic exams statewide.

MHA has a long-standing commitment to working with coalition partners and other health care facilities to improve care for victims of sexual assault. Hospitals and health systems have an important role in providing victims with an exam, any necessary testing, and a notice of rights and resources. As proposed in SF 1249, centralized financial support with the state for the vital resources and supports will provide more equitable care for sexual assault victims across Minnesota, will better ensure patient confidentiality, and will remove the current "patchwork of practices" for sexual assault exam payment across Minnesota.

We urge you to support SF 1249 (Seeberger). Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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