



March 20, 2023

Dear Senate Health & Human Services Committee Members,

Reach for Resources is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower people to reach their full potential. Each year we serve over 1300 children, families and adults across the Twin Cities area with intellectual disabilities and/or mental illness in the areas of case management, counseling, employment, housing, inclusion, in-home supports, mental health services, and therapeutic recreation.

Our organization has about 80 employees who work hard to meet the needs and supports of those we serve. Yet, they are not paid well to provide supports to our state's most vulnerable individuals. SF926 would provide a 35% rate increase for ARMHS.

Here are commentaries from our employees:

As someone who has worked in ARMHS for many years, I am extremely happy to learn that SF926 supports a rate increase. As ARMHS is a community-based service, it is often overlooked. However, throughout my career I have been told by more clients than I can count that ARMHS has been, and continues to be, the most helpful mental health service they have used. Most of the reasons seem to stem from the fact that ARMHS is the literal definition of 'meet people where they are at'. Meeting clients in the community or in their home is crucial for individuals with Severe Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) who often struggle with getting through a single day, yet alone completing all the steps it takes to find, make, schedule transportation, and attend an appointment outside of their home.

A key aspect is that ARMHS has the ability to work on 13 domains of a person's life, while merging aspects of therapy, case management, health care, and advocacy work. Many agencies are unable to meet with clients for the amount of time needed to really explain and get things accomplished, whereas ARMHS is able to create a session length that works for the individual client.

ARMHS services help to reduce hospital workloads and inpatient by being a support to many individuals who struggle with supportive and understanding formal/informal providers.

A rate increase will hopefully be a step in the right direction and a way for workers to feel recognized and supported at the macro level. You can support mental health services across Minnesota by supporting SF926. Thanks for your support.

Respectfully,

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