



Sen. Kelly Morrison
3205 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 20, 2023

Dear Sen. Morrison:

The Coalition of Recovery Investment (CORI) and our member organizations are writing in support of SF1951 which would establish a recuperative care benefit within Medicaid. Recuperative care offers healthcare providers a way to discharge patients experiencing homelessness and provide them with continued health and treatment services when hospitalization is no longer required – but when a safe place to heal from an illness or injury is still needed.

While recuperative care addresses the gap in healthcare for the homeless who are going back and forth between hospitals and the streets. Homeless people need basic necessities, such as food and a place to live, before they can move forward with their lives, including getting a job, managing their health and mental health, or discontinuing substance use. A common stereotype of the homeless population is that they all suffer from substance use disorder. The truth is that a high percentage of homeless people do struggle with substance abuse, but addictions should be viewed as illnesses and require a great deal of treatment, counseling, and support to overcome.

Medicaid should pay for recuperative care services, including clinical care coordination and support services not currently reimbursed in a shelter or other short-term housing. Providing a vulnerable population with recuperative care will result in improved health outcomes, increased appropriate access to care, reduced emergency department visits, and may also decrease the use of detox centers and the criminal justice system as alternatives to behavioral health and shelter systems.

Numerous national studies have shown this model of care improves patient outcomes, save money, and reduces stigma related to mental health and substance use disorder and this is the type of innovated care models we should be deploying to help Minnesotans. We thank you for authoring SF1951.

If CORI can be of help or if you have questions, please reach out to CORI's consultants, Sarah Erickson, at sarah.erickson@unitedstrategiesllc.com or Tara Erickson at Tara@tgeconsultingmn.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Messinger
Chair
Coalition of Recovery Investment