

Hello I am writing to provide written testimony on SF 2995. I understand the period for comment may still be open.

I am specifically writing to encourage support for the long COVID provisions of the bill and related funding for long COVID services.

Having dealt with long COVID for the last two years, I am acutely aware of the lack of resources and support for the condition.

I have had to go outside my insurance network to find treatment with a provider specializes in treating long COVID, and I've had to pay out of network costs from my own pocket as a result.

I have attempted to work with my employer around disability accommodations and found significant barriers from HR and a lack of flexibility in official accommodation options for the condition and symptoms I'm dealing with.

Overall there's a lack of peer support in the community that is moderated and a safe space with knowledgeable experts. The only alternatives I've seen are online forums of dubious nature and full of questionable treatments.

We need a sustained approach to that is regular, supported, and research informed in helping people cope with long COVID.

I strongly support the creation of grant funding for community programs, engagement, services and outreach included in the bill, and to fully staff this important work at MDH for the foreseeable future.

Thank you, Mike Radcliffe  
2791 2nd St N, North St Paul, MN 55109