

Feb 8, 2023

Rep. Omar Fateh
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155



Sen. Omar Fateh:

CORI is an organization of individuals and groups who are committed to educating and advocating for additional resources and innovative policy changes to ensure Minnesotans have access to quality substance use disorder treatment options. CORI's membership is made up of SUD providers, hospitals, health care groups, recovery community advocates, counties, and private sector businesses.

We are writing today to thank you for authoring Senate File 1269 which would provide stable funding for the only addition medicine fellowship in Minnesota.

The fellowship is housed between the University of Minnesota Department of Psychiatry and HCMC's addiction medicine department with clinical rotations at HCMC, the University of Minnesota teaching hospital and the Minneapolis Veteran's Hospital. Funding this fellowship will train more physicians to become experts in the prevention, clinical evaluation, treatment, and ongoing care of those with addiction. Recent fellows are running Project ECHO's, treating patients in critical populations and locations around the state and becoming teachers themselves.

There are over 20 million Americans that have a substance use disorder and roughly only 1 in 10 of them receive the treatment they need. One reason for this is the lack of specially trained providers, especially physicians trained in addiction medicine that can provide medication assisted treatment (MAT) options for many patients. According to the American Board of Medical Specialties, there are only 3,000 physicians nationwide specially trained in addiction medicine and that's not enough.

Our coalition strongly supports funding for the addition medicine fellowship and we thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions for us, please contact our consultant, Sarah Erickson, at 651-303-0990.

Sincerely,

Bill Messinger
Chair, CORI