



February 24, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

NAMI Minnesota supports SF 3369. We know that more students than ever are struggling with their mental health. Having access to mental health treatment is critical to their well-being and to doing well in school.

SF 3369 would clarify that a legitimate reason for not being in class is having a telehealth appointment. We continue to hear from parents that schools do not always include mental health therapy as an excuse for missing school.

SF 3369 also allows students to access available space to have a telehealth mental health appointment. High school students do not need anyone else in the room to assist them in accessing treatment. If there is space available, schools should be encouraging students to access treatment.

School-linked mental health programs eliminated many barriers to accessing treatment such as parents taking time off of work, and travel time to the appointment. Allowing space to be used in a school building eliminates those same barriers.

NAMI Minnesota urges your support for SF 3369.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Abderholden".

Sue Abderholden, MPH  
Executive Director



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