



## Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota State Senate  
March 14, 2024

### Chair Wiklund and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter to support of Senate File 3451—updating regulations and providing workforce flexibilities across our MN mental health system.

The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is the state's leading association for Community Mental Health Programs, representing 39 community-based mental health providers and agencies across the state. Our mission is to serve all who come to us seeking mental and chemical health services, regardless of their insurance status, ability to pay or where they live. As Essential Community Providers, we serve primarily culturally diverse, low-income, uninsured and public healthcare program insured Minnesotans, who cannot access services elsewhere. We serve our clients with comprehensive and coordinated care.

MACMHP's member agencies all provide a spectrum of mental health and substance use disorder services to our communities from the same organization. A majority are community mental health clinics and certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs). Providing care in these models means agencies must comply with all the various mental health services' regulations of the state.

We are working to build our programs to respond to as many needs of our clients and communities as we can. In this current workforce crisis and sparsely invested mental health and SUD environment, community mental health and SUD programs are further challenged by continuing to have to navigate convoluted regulatory requirements that created silos of care rather than bringing services together under consistent standards. This adds to the struggle to keep access to quality care available for our communities.

SF 3451 contains many proposals which allow community mental health clinics to keep moving toward an integrated, holistic model of care. These include: increasing access to our communities and clients by removing entry barriers; supporting our staff and programs by flexibly responding to today's lack of workforce capacity; supporting clinics' ability to comply with regulations by bringing consistency to them; and allow our clinicians to work at the top of their licenses and focus on providing good care to clients and communities. This bill furthers efforts to streamline regulations that govern the services we provide together under one roof.

MACMHP thanks this Committee and rest of the legislature for the good work you have done over these several years in bringing our mental health regulations together in one statute (245I) and first steps in streamlining them. We look forward to continue working with you, the Department and our other community partners. We are hopeful this bill is the next step in that good work to build a regulatory system that can respond with the changing needs of our industry and our communities.

Thank you for your leadership and support.

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