

# CHANGE INC.

March 12, 2024

Dear Chair Wiklund and Health and Human Services Committee Members,

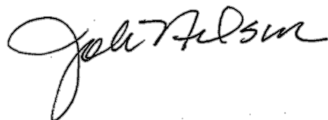
Change Inc. provides mental health care to children, youth, and young adults in the Metro. Our School-Based Mental Health program addresses mental and emotional barriers to school success and serves over 700 kids annually. Throughout the past 15 years, our mental health and support services have expanded to include mentoring, case management, care coordination, and out-patient therapy.

Current Medicaid mental health rates are low and out-of-date and greatly impacting on our ability to provide greatly needed services– including delays in accessing care, shrinkage of key services, and the inability to staff critical care.

We can clearly see how this is generating systemic crisis – within and outside of the mental health system – for children and families. The urgently needed solution to this crisis is to fix the rates.

With Medicaid outpatient community based mental health rates that reimburse for the cost of care, we can provide the early intervention and prevention services that help children and families experience health, wellbeing, and hopeful futures. That is why we are asking you to make sure that fixing the Medicaid mental health rates will be the highest priority for the 2024 session.

Sincerely,



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**CHANGE**  
INSTITUTE

**GAP**  
SCHOOL

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