



March 25, 2024

Senator
Melissa H. Wiklund
Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator
Paul J. Utke
Ranking Minority Leader
Health and Human Services Committee
2403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) fully supports S.F.4986, a bill that will establish a pilot model to ensure access to behavioral health and care coordination at CLUES' Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCCBHC). This pilot model will help mitigate behavioral health disparities for vulnerable communities who are uninsured or underinsured. It will also demonstrate how the sustainability of the CCBHCs ensures access to essential community-based services, and how preventive care reduces costs related to expensive interventions. CLUES has a proven record as a multiservice community-based organization that can align capacity and resources to deliver holistic, culturally responsive, and evidence based behavioral health services that benefit the whole family.

At a time when Latino families and individuals are enduring serious mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, isolation, and suicide, compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to preventive supports that meet cultural, social, and language-related needs are extremely critical.

For these reasons, MCLA strongly supports the adoption of S.F. 4986 and urges this committee to also support this important legislation. This bill has the great potential to ensure that disadvantaged communities receive the proper cultural and linguistical mental health treatment and prevention that will result in financial savings for the state's healthcare systems.

Sincerely,



Rosa Tock | Executive Director