

April 17, 2024

Re: SF 4699

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on SF4699. The Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) is made up of over 4,000 health and human service (HHS) professionals statewide. Our members cover the health and human service spectrum—mental health providers, social workers, case managers, etc.—and are employed by for-profit and nonprofit entities, as well as state and local government agencies.

We seek your support to build a stronger HHS workforce in Minnesota for our members and the clients they serve. Among the many issues we're supporting this session, we are excited to see your investments in the workforce, child welfare, mental health, housing and shelter, and more. In particular, we ask that you include the following provisions in final negotiations:

Social Services Information System (SSIS) Investments

MSSA is grateful you have included measures to invest in SSIS systems. MSSA membership includes many case managers and 48 County agency members across Minnesota. Improving the capabilities and usability of SSIS, a system that has fallen out of sync with evolving service and case management practices, will make a big difference for our members and the clients they serve in child welfare, adult and child mental health, and home and community based services. We ask that you please take the County position on the inclusion of this provision in your final budget proposal.

African American Preservation Act

MSSA is supportive of the provisions included in SF4699 related to the African American Preservation Act. We ask that you please include all stakeholder perspectives in final negotiations related to this provision including those from Village Arms and County stakeholders.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to share our support for the measures you've included in SF4699 on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. Please reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns at msancartier@mnssa.org.

Sincerely,

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