



Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment

02/27/2024

Chair John Hoffman

Dear Chair John Hoffman,

Subject: Seeking support for MARRCH's Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#) and Budget [SF4276/HF4190](#) Proposals

We are the Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment, a dedicated provider of substance use disorder (SUD) services in Duluth, Minnesota. Our mission is to offer compassionate, effective treatment to those battling substance use disorders, an issue that continues to devastate communities across our state, particularly in greater Minnesota areas. We serve approximately 5000 patients each year and employ 170 staff members.

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field has undergone substantial changes in a relatively short amount of time. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced a **net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). Nearly 40% of these losses are occurring in greater Minnesota (outside of the 5-county metro area). Despite our unwavering commitment, we find ourselves at a critical juncture.

With overdose deaths at an all-time high, we are at a critical breaking point and need **immediate and long-term relief**. These 2024 legislative priorities were identified and developed by more than 240 SUD professionals across the state.

Policy [SF3984/HF4149](#)

Funding [SF4276/HF4190](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create hard deadline for paperwork reduction recommendations• Expand alternative paths to licensure• Create a County Affidavit for the Behavioral Health Fund• Align SUD with American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)• Submit an 1115 Waiver for Incarceration by January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Unstrike" SUD and include those services in the 3% increase and automatic inflation adjustment effective 2024• Adopt the SUD rate recommendations for Burnes & Associates• Develop a group peer rate• ASAM certification/Alternative Licensing Inspections• Deduct student loan payments from MN taxes
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The stark reality we face is one where, without immediate and targeted financial support, more providers will be forced to close their doors, thus limiting options for people needing help, and exacerbating an already dire public health crisis.

Investing in SUD services is an investment in the health and well-being of our state. It is a step towards:

- Stabilizing existing services to ensure no further loss of SUD providers.
- Enhancing access to treatment for individuals in both urban and rural areas, particularly in greater Minnesota where the need is most acute.
- Supporting recovery and reducing the broader social and economic impacts of substance use disorders on our communities.

The challenges we face are significant, but not insurmountable. With your support, we can ensure that individuals battling substance use disorders receive the care and support they need to rebuild their lives. We urge you to prioritize this funding increase, to stand with us in our mission, and to help stem the tide of this crisis that is ravaging our state.

We would gladly meet to discuss this request further. Any questions regarding MARRCH can be sent to Brian Zirbes at executivedirector@marrch.org. Thank you for considering our plea and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Tina Silverness

Chief Executive Officer

Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment

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