



Driving Excellence in Addiction Care

To: Chair Hoffman—Senate Human Services Committee  
From: Brian Zirbes, MARRCH Executive Director  
Subject: Feedback regarding [SF 4399-Human Services Policy Omnibus Bill](#)  
Date: March 19, 2024  
Chairs Hoffman, and committee members--

MARRCH is pleased to be involved in these policy discussions and offer our support for many provisions of this bill. We have appreciated the engagement and dialogue with the MN Department of Human Services, the Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy, the MN Association of County Social Service Administrators, and the Mental Health Legislative Network. We are especially appreciative of the authors for the MARRCH policy bill ([SF 3984](#)) Senator Abeler, Chair Hoffman, and Senator Maye Quade.

SUD organizations are committed to providing high quality services to people needing treatment/recovery services as well as providing a workplace where employees can work and thrive in an industry they love. **As provided in previous testimony, SUD rates are horribly underfunded, there is significant burnout amongst direct care staff, and programs are closing.** Many of these policy proposals will reduce some barriers to client access and reduce administrative burden.

The sections of [SF 4399](#) we want to highlight our support are in Article 4: Substance Use Disorder Services:

- Section 1—Expanding paths to licensure
- Section 6—Alternative Licensing Inspections workgroup
- Section 10—Removing licensing candidates from a ratio limit

There were a couple of policy proposals from [SF 3984](#) that were not included in this version and we hope they can be re-included:

- Section 5; lines 4.25 through 8.6 (Aligning with ASAM standards)
- Section 6: lines 8.9 through 9.9 (Paperwork reduction report)

There are a few areas of this bill that need some continued work and discussion. One major area of concern in [SF 4399](#) is Section 20; line 68.14. This change seeks to change ASAM 3.1 (low intensity residential) from 5 hours a week to 9-19 hours per week. **This language will double or triple the amount of treatment services needing to be provided, at a rate of \$79.84 per day!!** Programs cannot afford more requirements and regulations without financial relief. If this language moves forward, we strongly request a match to the old medium intensity rate (\$166.13) or implement the proposed rate from Burnes and Assoc (\$216.90) for ASAM 3.1. We look forward to the ongoing work and collaboration to make systemic improvements in SUD.