



March 19, 2024

Sen. Omar Fateh
Minnesota Senate Building Room 3219
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Brion Curran
State Office Building Room 531
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr
Boulevard.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Fateh and Representative Curran:

Thank you for authoring S.F. 1009/H.F. 1416, a bill that will improve Integrated Community Supports (ICS) and getting people to an appropriate level of care in the community.

Hennepin Healthcare is Minnesota's largest emergency department and busiest trauma center caring for Minnesotans across the state. We have proudly served Minnesotans in need of critical mental health and recovery services for decades and have been actively working to expand local capacity to serve both adults and children living with serious mental illness.

ICS helps provide daily health support for people in the community. However, this service does not currently include nursing services in the rate framework. This has been a barrier for our discharges, especially in mental health. People who choose to live in supported independence settings can have significant medical needs that require nursing oversight, if even for just a few hours a week. In these cases, it is most efficient and effective when the ICS service provider can also provide nursing support.

The inclusion of nursing services in this bill will help with discharging patients who no longer need our level of care. When patients cannot discharge from the hospital, the Emergency Department (ED) backs up with "boarders" waiting for an inpatient bed. This results in hospitals turning away trauma and other patients in the ED, patients remaining in the ED far longer than appropriate, and patients decompensating mentally and physically in the wrong level of care. Caring for patients who do not need our care means we cannot care for those who do.

We support S.F. 1009/H.F. 1416 to improve ICS supports. This bill will help allow patients in our health system to be discharged to the appropriate level of care they need in the community.

Sincerely,

Megen Boysen, RN MS
Senior Director Psychiatry Service Line
Hennepin Healthcare

Karen Klement
Social Work Unit Supervisor
Inpatient Psychiatry
Hennepin Healthcare