



My name is Jay O'Neill, and I am the owner and president of Behavioral Dimension. Our agency provides a variety of in-home behavioral support throughout Minnesota, including rural parts of the state. We access the Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention benefit (EIDBI) for a large majority of our overall services.

I am writing in support of SF 5264 and the emergency relief grants for agencies that provide services in rural Minnesota. We have provided EIDBI services in the Cloquet, Alexandria, and the Cambridge, Isanti areas. Until recently we also served the Marshall area and had to close services there due to severe staffing shortage.

Over the past several years we have seen all our teams in rural Minnesota decrease in size and the number of clients we are able to serve has been significantly reduced. We struggle with the resources needed to recruit, hire, and retain staff in the rural areas. Also, due to the vast areas we serve, our expenses are higher than our metropolitan teams due to the distances our staff drive.

A relief grant would help us afford additional recruitment and training costs as well as provide additional funds to retain our staff.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Jay O'Neill

President

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