

April 3, 2025



Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), we write with both support and concerns about SF 2902, which aims to reflect the work of the Priority Admissions Review Panel.

The Review Panel on Priority Admissions to State-Operated Treatment Programs was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2024 to review and evaluate the priority admission timeline. People who have been civilly committed should have access to the court ordered treatment they require to achieve recovery. MACSSA appreciates the work done by the review panel to discuss and identify solutions around lack of access to care – there is urgency to take action on their recommendations this session.

Our top priority related to the Review Panel on Priority Admissions to State-Operated Treatment Programs is to expand access to care – this requires a capacity increase at Direct Care and Treatment (DCT). The Review Panel only supported extending the sunset provision around the 48-hour rule conditioned on the legislature providing funding to increase capacity at DCT and in community.

SF2904 bill reflects a number of principles agreed upon in the review panel report that MACSSA supports, including:

- Permanently fixing Does Not Meet Medical Criteria (DNMC) cost of care billing, to stop DCT from inappropriately charging counties 100% of the cost of care when individuals at DCT facilities are awaiting transfer to another state-operated bed.
- Extending the work of the Review Panel on Priority Admissions to State-Operated Treatment Programs to continue to study and work on addressing this urgent issue.
- Creating a publicly accessible Direct Care and Treatment Admissions dashboard.

The existence of the priority admissions statute, or the 48 hour rule, highlights and emphasizes the urgency for the state to add necessary DCT capacity. Changing that timeline must be accompanied by new capacity at DCT to increase access to care. Capacity can not be added overnight. But without investing in beds now, we can not hope for improvements in the backlog of our system in the future.

Thus, we reiterate the recommendations of the Review Panel that changes to the 48 hour rule reflected in this bill must only occur alongside increases in capacity at DCT and in community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Freeman", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matt Freeman, Executive Director  
Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators