

Sen. Liz Boldon
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3205
St. Paul, MN 55155



February 24, 2025

Dear Sen. Boldon:

The Coalition of Recovery Investment (CORI) is writing to thank you for chief authoring Senate File 8 which would require Medicaid coverage for the psychiatric Collaborative Care Model (CoCM). CORI and our member organizations advocate for much needed funding, reform and increased access for behavioral health illnesses such as substance use disorder (SUD) and providing coverage for CoCM through Medicaid is a wonderful step towards better outcomes for Minnesotans suffering with behavioral health illnesses.

The psychiatric collaborative care model is an evidence-based approach for integrating physical and behavioral health services that can be implemented within a primary care-based setting. The model includes:

- care coordination and care management
- regular/proactive monitoring and treatment to target using validated clinical rating scales; and
- regular, systematic psychiatric caseload reviews and consultation for patients who do not show clinical improvement.

The ability to get both physical and mental health care at a familiar location is comfortable to patients and reduces duplicate assessments. Increased patient engagement oftentimes results in a better health care experience and improved patient outcomes.

CoCM has now been tested in nearly 100 randomized controlled trials in the US and abroad, and is widely agreed upon as the integrated care approach with the most robust evidence base. It leads to significantly better clinical outcomes, greater patient and provider satisfaction, improved functioning, and reduces health care costs.

Thank you for your commitment to behavioral health care. If CORI can be of help or if you have questions, please reach out to CORI's consultants, Sarah Erickson, at sarah.erickson@unitedstrategiesllc.com or Tara Erickson at tara@ericksonpublicaffairs.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Messinger
Chair
Coalition of Recovery Investment