



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota State Senate
February 26, 2025

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter to support of **Senate File 8**.

SF8 Collaborative Care Model delivers effective mental health care in primary care with a care team led by the primary care provider (PCP) and including a behavioral health care manager and psychiatrist. It is an essential tool to improve access to mental health care in Minnesota and build equity for Minnesotans on PMAP and Medicaid by closing the current 2-tiered system with those on private insurance covered already.

Currently, Minnesotans with private insurance are guaranteed access to collaborative care, but those who rely on Medicaid are not. This bill corrects that inequity, reduces wait times, creates efficiencies, and improves outcomes, all while saving money. Collaborative Care is the most effective model of care to treat mental health and substance use disorders.

Please support SF 8 and lead the way to improve mental health access and deliver care sooner for more Minnesotans.

Sincerely

Jin Lee Palen, Executive Director