

Chair Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Neil Roesler, and I serve as Vice President of Legal Services at Sanford Health Fargo, and Sanford Health of Northern Minnesota. My testimony is in support of Senate File 1173.

The ability to enter into interstate services agreements is vital in border cities to ensure we can care for patients close to their homes, in a way that allows the patient to participate in the programs of their home state. One of the most difficult barriers we face is the limitation on eligibility for those patients who have a criminal probation or parole status. These patients are typically coming for help in a time of a crisis, where care and decisions need to be rendered quickly. Parole, and especially probation statuses are not typically readily discernible, and our team of medical professionals and social workers are ill-equipped to immediately and accurately make these determinations. On multiple occasions, this has resulted in a discontinuation of services because these statuses have been learned after the patient is already going through the commitment process, and the patient is ineligible to continue receiving care under the interstate agreement. Removing these bases of ineligibility will simplify the intake and care processes, and ensure uninterrupted delivery of services to patients in a time of crisis using the laws and programs of their home state.

Thank you for your consideration. Please support SF 1173.

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