



February 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

NAMI Minnesota, alongside our partners in the Mental Health Legislative Network, strongly supports SF 1826 and SF 1827.

Substance Use Disorder care is a critical part of the mental health system. Nationwide, 34.8% of adults with a mental illness also have substance use disorder (SUD), and 46.6% of adults with a serious mental illness have a co-occurring SUD. That's a total of 20.4 million adults in the United States with co-occurring disorders. The combination of SUDs and mental illnesses "results in more profound functional impairment; worse treatment outcomes; higher morbidity and mortality; increased treatment costs; and higher risk for homelessness, incarceration, and suicide than if people had only one of these disorders," according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Current best practices indicate that most people should receive treatment for *both* their substance use disorder(s) *and* their mental illness(es). Tragically, only 18.6% of adults in the U.S. do.

It takes many people a long time to seek help for a substance use disorder, so it's crucial that treatment is available for them once they are ready to take that step. Just like mental illnesses, SUD recovery is not linear – most people will need treatment several times over the course of their lives. But Minnesota SUD service providers do not have the capacity to meet the need. SF 1826 would reimburse SUD providers at rates that cover the cost of the treatments they provide, so they can recruit and retain qualified staff and keep their doors open and their lights on.

According to the Department of Human Services' own study, SUD rates have been catastrophically low – lower than physical health and even mental health reimbursement rates. We know the budget is especially tight this year – but Minnesotans cannot wait any longer for lifesaving SUD services.

We urge you to pass both bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). *Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* (HHS Publication No. PEP24-07-021, NSDUH Series H-59).