



Minnesota Hospital Association

**161 Rondo Ave., Ste. 1010
Saint Paul, MN 55103**

www.mnhospitals.org

March 12, 2025

Submitted Electronically

Chair Hoffman and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) in support of SF 2310 (Rasmusson) and its provisions that will extend the availability of funding for Minnesota's network of supported decision-making practice.

In 2023, patients across the state spent roughly 195,000 avoidable days in hospitals, waiting for the right level of care to become available. Too often patients, their families, and their care teams are prematurely informed that guardianship is required to facilitate a successful discharge and admission to the next care location. If guardianship is not needed, understanding that it often is, its requirement effectively halts discharge, applies the most restrictive and burdensome processes, strips patients of their civil rights and decision-making authority, and delays patients from getting the appropriate care they need, when and where they need it. These, along with many other reasons, are why supported decision-making is needed as an available alternative to guardianship, especially when guardianship is not actually needed.

Despite the program rolling out later than anticipated, our members, including North Memorial, Hennepin Healthcare, and CentraCare, have effectively engaged with the program and all report positive experiences for their patients and care teams. As such, SF 2310 would not only allow grantees access to funding through the end of FY 2026, but it would also allow our member hospitals and health systems to increase their engagement with the program. This will maximize the opportunities to successfully deploy supported decision-making to benefit hospital patients and reduce the number of avoidable days.

Hospitals and health systems across Minnesota know firsthand that patients and their families are the first to bear the consequences of unnecessary guardianship. Therefore, we urge this Committee and legislature to support SF 2310 (Rasmusson) and the extended availability of funding for Minnesota's network of supported decision-making practice.

Sincerely,

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