



March 13, 2025

The Honorable John A. Hoffman
Chair, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
2111 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jordan Rasmusson
Ranking Minority Member, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
2409 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center Letter Regarding SF 2443

Dear Chair Hoffman, Ranking Minority Member Rasmusson, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding SF 2443.

We support the addition of informed decision-making curriculum and annual competency evaluations for case managers by the Department of Human Services (lines 5.4 and 5.6-5.7). Informed decision making is essential for people with disabilities to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Many case managers lack the necessary training on this important topic, and this requirement will help ensure that people who receive supports and services retain as much control over their lives as possible.

We are opposed to the attempt to make permanent the change to the priority admissions rule that states that individuals being held in jail must be admitted within 48 hours of a determination by Direct Care and Treatment that a medically appropriate bed is available in a state-operated mental health program (lines 54.18-54.19). This change would provide complete discretion to Direct Care and Treatment regarding who should receive treatment in state-operated mental health programs. Last year, the Priority Admissions Task Force published nine recommendations to address the systemic issues that led to the original creation of the priority admissions statute. This body has not yet taken meaningful steps to implement many of these recommendations. Eliminating the 48-hour rule requirement at this time without

implementing the other recommendations of the task force will exacerbate the original issue that the rule was meant to address: individuals with mental illness in need of treatment are inappropriately stuck in jails without proper medical care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding SF 2443.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Purrington', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jennifer Purrington
Legal Director/Deputy Director
Minnesota Disability Law Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Smart', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project

This document has been formatted for accessibility. Please call Ellen Smart at 612/746-3761 if you need this document in an alternative format.