



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Human Services Committee
Minnesota State Senate
March 24th, 2025

Dear Chair Hoffman and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs – MACMHP, I am writing in support of Senate File 2647, which helps expand access to substance use disorder treatment and increase efficiencies for our licensed clinical staff by allowing them and integrate across mental health and substance use disorder care.

An increasing number of mental health and SUD clinics and agencies provide co-occurring and integrated services. They employ licensed mental health professionals and LADCs, among a full staff spectrum, across their service lines. However, in a Medical Assistance licensed SUD program under MN Statutes Sec. 245G, only licensed alcohol and drug counselors (LADCs) are authorized to provide treatment.

MACMHP's member agencies, including the state's CCBHCs, all provide the full continuum of behavioral health services and employ the full staff compliment. This at the same time that we are seeing the need for substance use disorder treatment increase exponentially coming out to the pandemic. Individuals are needing more treatment and are more acutely sick. All this is happening while we are in an access crisis for substance use disorder treatment and care. Agencies and programs are shrinking or shuttering their services out of lack of workforce and sustainable reimbursements. The ones remaining are trying to keep up with long waiting lists and backed up appointments.

We encourage you to support SF 2647 as next step to integrating care around our whole clients and communities and ensuring access to treatment services for Minnesotans by:

- Allowing licensed mental health professionals, clinical trainees and nurses to provide comprehensive assessments
- Expanding qualifications to be a treatment coordinator
- Conducting a study on removing the limits on licensed health professionals' ability to provide substance use disorder treatment services when they have the individual clinical scope.

We thank you for yours and the legislature's good work for our mental health and substance use disorder system.

Sincerely

Jin Lee Palen, Executive Director