



March 25, 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

Re: Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center Letter in Support of SF 2902

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 2902.

We support the implementation of the recommendations of the Priority Admissions Task Force, including the creation of the Priority Admissions Review Panel and extending the rule that those 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 for two additional years. The Priority Admissions Task Force worked extensively to develop consensus recommendations to address the difficult issues surrounding individuals with mental illness in need of treatment being stuck in jails with proper medical care. The Minnesota legislature should implement these recommendations as the first step in improving the critical mental health services that our state desperately needs. This bill provides a common-sense approach to addressing this issue while recognizing the financial realities of this session.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SF 2902.

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.