



*Mental Health Minnesota is the voice of lived mental health experience.*

*We carry that declaration forward as we work to advance mental health and well-being for all, increase access to mental health treatment and services, and provide education, resources and support across Minnesota.*

Dear Senator Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Committee,

On behalf of Mental Health Minnesota, I am writing to share our support for SF 2902.

Our current system is not meeting the needs of many Minnesotans with the most serious and complex mental health needs. There is not adequate access to beds in hospitals or community facilities, and the requirement to prioritize admissions from jails means that intensive treatment for others is delayed (or they never receive it at all). The work of the Priority Admissions Task Force included a review of existing issues and concerns and a list of recommendations for change.

This bill works to implement some of the recommendations from the Priority Admissions Task Force, and contains necessary steps in addressing concerns with the existing priority admissions law, including:

- Establishment of a priority admissions review panel to continue to evaluate and measure progress on the implementation of recommendations in this area;
- Creation of a publicly available dashboard, which will provide additional transparency; and
- An exception to add up to ten individuals to the admission waitlist to ensure appropriate needed treatment for those individuals and create behavioral health openings in community hospitals.

The Priority Admissions Task Force spent significant time and energy developing recommendations to address current issues and improve the provision of direct care and treatment. We support the inclusion of some of those recommendations in this bill and ask this committee to move it forward.

Sincerely,

Shannah C. Mulvihill, MA, CFRE  
Executive Director/CEO



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