



## Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator John Hoffman, Chair  
Human Services Committee  
Minnesota State Senate  
April 2, 2025

Dear Chair Hoffman and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs – MACMHP, I am writing to express gratitude for the inclusion of provisions from SF 2647 - which helps expand access to substance use disorder treatment and increase efficiencies for our precious licensed clinical staff by allowing them to work at the top of their licenses and integrate across mental health and substance use disorder care – in SF 2443 the Human Services Omnibus Policy bill.

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. In this workforce shortage and service access shortage, these agencies are needing to expand access to treatment to clients we serve and be able to best use their clinicians' time. 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. The field of substance use disorder is going through changes – integrated services models and the onset of ASAM criteria. MACMHP's member agencies, including the state's CCBHCs, all provide the full continuum of behavioral health services and employ the full staff complement.

The inclusions of these provisions will alleviate challenges by expanding capacity within licensed 245G programs in Medical Assistance:

- Also allowing licensed mental health professionals, clinical trainees and licensed registered nurses – who have the individual licensed clinical scope - to provide comprehensive assessments – a critical step in starting treatment and a known backlog point of access
- Expanding qualifications to be a treatment coordinator

We are also grateful to see the inclusion of the extension of the 48-hour rule timeline alteration to denote a medically appropriate bed being available. We hope to see the inclusion of the 10 hospital patient extension as well.

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