



# Minnesota Alliance of Rural Addiction Treatment Programs

April 2, 2025

Sen. John Hoffman, Chair  
Senate Human Services Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2111  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hoffman and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

The Minnesota Alliance of Rural Addiction Treatment Programs (MARATP) is a non-profit organization that seeks to bring together diverse rural interests to address and advocate for strong addiction treatment programs throughout Greater Minnesota. Formed in 2017, MARATP advocates for legislation and policies that strengthen the health and well-being of rural Minnesotans, and improve rural access to higher quality, lower cost health care.

We are writing you today in support of various provisions included in the policy omnibus bill (S.F. 2443) amendment. We will continue to monitor the bill as it is amended.

Thank you for the inclusion of the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment workforce flexibility language in Article 4, Sections 1 and 2. We believe this language is a good first step in eliminating limitations currently in Chapter 245G's SUD program licensing laws that limit licensed individuals from practicing to the full extent of their licensed scope of practice. By allowing qualified professionals to administer comprehensive assessments in SUD licensed treatment facilities, our licensed alcohol and drug counselors (LADCs) in Minnesota will be able to support more individuals in accessing the treatment they need. In this time of a workforce shortage (especially in rural communities in Minnesota), a desperate need for an increase in behavioral health reimbursement rates, but at unfortunate state budget outlook, we must find ways to be flexible. We see this as a small but meaningful change that upholds quality of care for people seeking treatment while supporting our providers to use their qualified workers in the most effective way possible.

MARATP also thanks you for the inclusion of Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH) policy proposals, including modifying the 10-day timeline to provide mental health diagnostic assessments to exclude weekends and holidays (Article 4, Section 4). We also support the change clarifying the county of financial responsibility for withdrawal management services (Article 4, Section 5).

Thank you for the work you do in this committee to support Minnesotans with substance use and co-occurring disorders in accessing the care they need.

Sincerely,

Marti Paulson, President

Minnesota Alliance of Rural Addiction Treatment Programs