

Chair Champion

Jobs and Economic Development Committee

Dear Chair Champion,

My name is Alex Maitheanas, and I am writing to encourage you and every member of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee to vote in support of SF 670, the bill that allocates funding to provide evidence-based employment support services to people with mental illnesses.

It should go without saying that 2024 was one of the most brutal job markets we've seen since the 2008 recession. I've been searching for work since January of 2024, and have yet to be given the final offer, despite making it to the final round of 17 different interview processes. As a neurodivergent Minnesotan with anxiety and depression, this has only made the process more difficult and strenuous, as I am needing to deal with barriers in application processes that neurotypical and able-bodied people do not have to face.

I write this piece of testimony from personal experience. It has been exhausting to try to find employment in an unfavorable market, and my experience has been exacerbated by my disabilities. I can only imagine where I would be now if I had a person or organization I could go to for help in order to become employed again. I dream of this resource being available to me and my community, and your committee has the power to help it happen.

Once again, I ask for your support on SF 670.

Thank you,

Alex Maitheanas

Moorhead, MN