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MAMFT.net

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Dear Senator Rest and Members of the Taxes Committee,

My name is Leah Seeger, and I am the President of the Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT). On behalf of our members, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate File 1402, which seeks to establish medical assistance rate adjustments for physician and professional services.

As an organization representing the 3,270 marriage and family therapists across Minnesota, we are acutely aware of the challenges faced by mental health professionals in delivering quality care under the current reimbursement structures. Marriage and family therapy services are currently reimbursed at a lower rate than individual therapy, despite the specialized nature of our work in addressing the mental health of multiple people in a family session. SF 1402 proposes critical adjustments, including:

- **Increasing reimbursement rates for outpatient mental health services** to at least 100% of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, ensuring fair compensation for providers and rate parity.
- **Establishing a statewide reimbursement rate for behavioral health home services**, promoting consistency and equity in service delivery.
- **Repealing differential payments** for mental health services based on the provider's level of education, fostering a more inclusive and fair reimbursement system.

These measures are essential to address the current inadequacies in Medical Assistance payments, which have been identified as insufficient in recent studies. By implementing these changes, SF 1402 will enhance access to mental health services for Medical Assistance enrollees, particularly in underserved areas, and support the sustainability of mental health practices throughout the state.

We commend your leadership in addressing these critical issues and urge the committee to support SF 1402. This legislation represents a significant step toward equitable reimbursement and improved access to mental health care for all Minnesotans.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We look forward to collaborating with you to advance the well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,

Leah Seeger, MA, LMFT, LADC
President
Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT)