



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 Chair Rest and Members of the Taxes Committee,

On behalf of Mental Health Minnesota, I am writing to share our support of SF1402.

Reimbursement rates for mental health providers are unsustainable at a time when the need has grown so greatly and wages have been low. Providers are leaving the field and programs are closing because of unsustainable rates.

DHS released the final version of their rates report last year, which confirmed that rates must be consistently and transparently raised. We need to ensure that our foundation of the mental health system is solid.

Children are boarding in emergency departments or other inappropriate or inadequate levels of care because there is a lack of access to the treatment and services they need. Even worse, children are living in juvenile detention settings when what they really need is mental health treatment. Increasing outpatient mental health rates is a critical step in addressing the crisis in access and the wider children's mental health crisis.

If there was a lack of availability for children's care for cancer or other serious illness, we would not hesitate to take action. The lack of access to mental health treatment and services is no less serious, and addressing reimbursement rates is essential to address this concern. Please help us continue to move this important issue forward through your support of SF1402.

Sincerely,

Shannah Mulvihill, MA, CFRE
Executive Director/CEO



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