



Senator Ann Rest, Chair
Taxes Committee
April 1, 2025

Chair Rest and Taxes Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW-MN), the MN Society for Clinical Social Work and other members of the MN Coalition of Licensed Social Workers, we are writing in support of SF1402.

NASW-MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state and the Coalition includes the MN Association of Black Social Workers, the MN Hmong Social Workers' Coalition, the MN Nursing Home Social Workers Association, the MN School Social Workers Association, and the MN Society for Clinical Social Work. Collectively we represent over 3,000 social workers.

There is currently a significant gap between the cost of delivering services and Medical Assistance reimbursement rates. Addressing this gap will improve access to services, increase capacity in mental health settings, and reduce staffing shortages.

SF1402 sets all RBRVS rates to at least equal to 100% Medicare and raises children's community-based mental health services (HCPCS) immediately. It will phase in other needed rate increases over the next two years. These are services that are often already being provided but without proper reimbursement rates, it is difficult for providers to maintain these essential mental health services to their communities.

Social work is based on a mission to enhance the well-being of humans. We advocate for our clients, and want to ensure that social workers and other professionals are supported in their work. Increasing outpatient mental health rates is critical to address the crisis in access and the well documented wider children's mental health crisis.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Coalition of Licensed Social Workers Representatives,

Karen Goodenough, PhD, LGSW, National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter
Renita Wilson, MSW, LICSW, MN Association of Black Social Workers
Kao Nou Moua, PhD, MSW, LGSW, MN Hmong Social Workers' Coalition,
Joanna Genovese-Cairns, MSW, LISW, MN Nursing Home Social Workers Association
Julie Campanelli, LICSW, Ed.S, MN School Social Workers Association
James Stoltz, LICSW, LADC, MN Society for Clinical Social Work
Jenny Arneson, MSW, LGSW, Legislative Consultant