



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
MN State Senate
April 15, 2026

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP), I am sending this letter of strong support to thank you for including **Reimbursement Rates for Mental Health Services in Medical Assistance in Senate File 4612**.

The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is the state's leading association for Community Mental Health Programs, representing 36 community-based mental health programs and CCBHCs across the state. MACMHP's member agencies all provide a spectrum of mental health and substance use disorder services to our communities from the same organization. As essential community providers, MACMHP member clinics serve some of our most medically complex individuals with many social and economic challenges.

One in four (1:4) Minnesotans are covered by Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare, making our public programs the largest coverage for behavioral health services in the state. We continue to experience a more severe behavioral health care access crisis coming out of the global pandemic and recent federal changes than ever before.

At the root of this crisis is the lack of sustainable reimbursement funding for the care delivered. Costs of delivering care and sustaining staff salaries, benefits, facilities infrastructure and meeting state regulations have increased exponentially in the last five years. But, Medicaid (Medical Assistance) reimbursements – the core source of funding for our MN system – are not keeping pace.

We have been working with you, the Committee and the Legislature and the Department of Human Services (DHS) over the course of many bills and rates studies. **We thank you for the significant step you and the rest of the Legislature took in passing major reforms and updates to our Medicaid mental health service rates in the 2025 Session last year.** Unfortunately, CMS and Congress' actions removed our funding mechanism for them, and we are back this year asking you to implement two of these provisions with general funds:

- Ensuring reimbursement rates for psychological testing will be paid at least 100% of the Medicare fee schedule;
- Ensures masters-level educated providers are reimbursed the same amount as other independently licensed clinicians;

We deeply appreciate your passage of 2025 provisions, currently in state law. We understand the current financial environment, and we know we cannot be implemented all at once with general funds. We implore the legislature to help us continue building onto the good work done. Please help us move these recommended investments forward - this is foundational to solving our behavioral health crisis in Minnesota.

Thank you for your leadership and support.

Jin Lee Palen
Executive Director