



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

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW-MN), the MN Society for Clinical Social Work and the members of the MN Coalition of Licensed Social Workers, we are writing in support of the inclusion of MA Mental Health Provider Rate Modifications in SF4612.

NASW-MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state. Together with the MN Society for Clinical Social Work, and our fellow members—including the MN Association of Black Social Workers, the MN Hmong Social Workers' Coalition, the MN Nursing Home Social Workers Association, and the MN School Social Workers Association—we represent more than 3,000 social workers dedicated to the well-being of Minnesotans.

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.

SF4612 provides the necessary funding to implement two critical provisions established during the 2025 session. By increasing psychological testing codes to 100% of Medicare payment rates and repealing the 20% payment reduction for services delivered by a master-level licensed clinicians, this bill takes a vital step toward fiscal sustainability. These essential mental health services are already being provided to our communities, but without equitable reimbursement, many providers are struggling to maintain the capacity required to meet the current demand..

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