

April 7, 2026

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

The Mental Health Legislative Network is a broad coalition in Minnesota that advocates for a statewide mental health system that is of high-quality, accessible and has stable funding. More than 40 organizations in the network work together to create visibility on mental health issues, act as a clearinghouse on public policy issues and pool our knowledge, resources and strengths to create change.

On behalf of the Mental Health Legislative Network, we would like to express our support for SF 4710: Behavioral health fund payments provision for uncollectible withdrawal management debt.

Access to treatment and care for substance use disorder is critical, and SF 4710 would help address issues that get in the way of individuals' ability to access treatment and care, including the following:

- Support for Withdrawal Management programs, which admit, stabilize, treat and refer individuals to appropriate services, by allowing the Behavioral Health Fund to cover uncompensated claims and repurposing capacity building grants that were previously unspent.
- Delaying implementation of the transition of the Behavioral Health Fund from counties to DHS, from July 2026 to July 2027, to ensure a seamless handoff and avoid system disruptions.
- Increasing the eligibility window for the Behavioral Health Fund from 60 days to 180 days.
- Piloting alternative licensing inspections in 245G for programs with accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and the American Society of Addiction Medicine Levels of Care, as well as the current Joint Commission Accreditation.
- Increasing the reimbursement rate for adolescent residential services to reflect the added staffing costs required when treating adolescents and the need to ensure this service is available for our youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannah Mulvihill, MA, CFRE
Executive Director/CEO, Mental Health Minnesota
Co-Chair, Mental Health Legislative Network

Marcus Schmit
Executive Director, NAMI Minnesota
Co-Chair, Mental Health Legislative Network

The Mental Health Legislative Network (MHLN) is a broad coalition in Minnesota that advocates for a statewide mental health system that is high-quality, accessible and has stable funding. The network collaborates to create visibility on mental health issues, act as a clearinghouse on public policy issues and pool our knowledge, resources, and strengths to create meaningful change.

Learn more at www.MHLN.org