



SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
TREATMENT COURTS
MINNESOTA
COLLABORATION - COOPERATION - TRANSFORMATION

March 13th, 2024

RE: H.F. 4005 and its companion bill S.F. 4950

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Courtney Parzych, and I am a Treatment Court Coordinator for the Sixth Judicial District. I am responsible for two rural courts out of the 71 established Treatment Courts in the state of Minnesota. I am advocating as an individual, not as a representative or on behalf of the Judicial Branch. Treatment Courts accepts individuals with a significant criminal history, they have not been successful on traditional probation, they are assessed as high-risk high need, and have a substance use disorder. In Treatment Court there are many expectations that court participants are required to follow which are aligned with the best practices set forward by All Rise. All Rise is formerly known as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. They are divided into four divisions, Treatment Court Institute, Impaired Driving Solutions, Justice for Vets, and Center for Advancing Justice. A few of the main program requirements include reporting to weekly court hearings, providing urinalysis twice per week for drugs and alcohol, attending chemical dependency and mental health treatment, completing community service work, and attending recovery meetings or activities. These requirements are consistent throughout the county and like a lot of the other Treatment Courts, our participants do not have a valid license in part due to their addiction.

Complying with the Court-mandated requirements put participants in a difficult situation where they need to pick one of the following options. 1) They can try to find a ride with family/friend or public transportation. This is often difficult due to not having a large support system in the beginning of recovery and rural communities do not have the same access to public transportation. 2) They can decide to drive without a valid license, which can cause them to have more legal issues than they already have. 3) They can decide to not appear for their required court hearings, appointments, and meetings. This could then result into a sanction or potentially a probation violation which puts their participation in the Treatment Court at risk.

Your support would open opportunities for participants to be able to accomplish the tasks that are needed to complete their Treatment Court program. Completing a Treatment Court program will result in a better court disposition but more importantly a solid foundation to continue a life in recovery and being a law-abiding citizen.

Sincerely,

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