CHANGE INC.

2 February 28, 2023

Human Services Policy Committee
MN House of Representatives
State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Committee Members,

   This letter is written in support of HF 2058. Funding for 1) continuation of DHS CEMIG (cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grants), 2) use of culturally specific consultations in the provision of mental health services, 3) creation of a Community Mental Health Worker pathway, and 4) M.A. rate to bill for mental health services provided in groups would go a long ways towards addressing the mental health disparities experienced by our communities of color in MN.

   Change Inc. has been a recipient of DHS CEMIG funding for several years. This support has allowed us to provide training, clinical supervision and other forms of support for people of color along their mental health careers pathway. Additionally, CEMIG funding has increased our capacity to provide mental health services for children and youth of color who are uninsured.
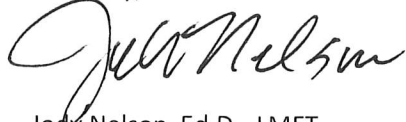
   Change Inc. has a culturally and linguistically diverse cadre of mental health practitioners and professionals and we would have interest in providing culturally specific consultations for other clinicians and agencies. We would also benefit from utilizing culturally specific consultations for populations we don't currently represent.

   We fully support the creation of a career pathway for Community Mental Health Workers. The needs in the community (ies) are great and won't be fully addressed by master's level, licensed therapists. Change Inc. would be very interested to hire Community Mental Health Workers to work as team members with our licensed clinicians.

   Finally, reimbursement to support mental health group services would increase access to mental health supports at a time when the needs are so great.

   Please give your utmost consideration to passing HF2058.

Sincerely,

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