

March 6, 2024



Minnesota House of Representatives: Support of H.F. 3397

Thank you, Chair Fischer, and committee members, for allowing me to testify today and thank you Representative Edelson for all your hard work on this topic.

My name is Randy Anderson. I'm a state licensed alcohol & drug counselor, a Minnesota Certification Board approved trainer and supervisor for peer recovery specialists. Most importantly I'm a person living in long term recovery and what that means to me is, I haven't used drugs, alcohol, or any mood-altering substance since January 9, 2005.

I'm here today to testify in full support of HF3397. I know how invaluable peer services are for those seeking or already in recovery from substance use. According to the data released by SAMHSA in September 2023 there are 29.0 million adults who perceived that they ever had a substance use problem, 72.2% (or 20.9 million) considered themselves to be in recovery or to have recovered from their drug or alcohol use problem. That means there are 20.9 million solutions to recovery from substance use disorder.

Just imagine if we could harness that population and their knowledge to help others struggling to find or sustain recovery. Guess what, we can and have. With the proper training, education, supervision, and oversight we can turn lived experience into tools that guide and mentor others. Up until now peer recovery services have been a bit of the wild west with very little guidelines, accountability, or oversight. This bill starts to address many of these problems and is definitely pointing Minnesota in the right direction.

Thank you, Chair Fischer and Committee members for your time and attention on this very personal and important topic.

*Kind regards,
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"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." – Mark Twain.