

Rep. Zach Stephenson
449 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155



March 27, 2023

Dear Rep. Stephenson:

The Coalition of Recovery Investment (CORI) is writing to thank you for including certain proposals in your omnibus bill. CORI and our member organizations advocate for much needed funding, reform and increased access for behavioral health illnesses such as substance use disorder (SUD) and some of the proposals you included will dramatically increase access to care and promote transparency within the insurance products and companies in the Minnesota healthcare market.

Thank you for including the HF1771 which would require all payers to reimburse the billing codes for the **Psychiatric Collaborative Care model**. The psychiatric collaborative care model is an evidence-based approach for integrating physical and behavioral health services that can be implemented within a primary care-based setting. The model includes:

- care coordination and care management
- regular/proactive monitoring and treatment to target using validated clinical rating scales; and
- regular, systematic psychiatric caseload reviews and consultation for patients who do not show clinical improvement.

We also want to thank you for including HF1540 which establishes the **Mental Health Parity and Substance Abuse Accountability Office** within the Department of Commerce to oversee compliance reviews, conduct and lead stakeholder engagement, review consumer and provider complaints, and serve as a resource for ensuring health plan compliance with mental health and substance abuse requirements.

Lastly, we are grateful that you are including a provision on timely credentialing of mental health providers. We have seen that narrow health plan networks continue to be a problem which is why patients trying to obtain mental health and SUD treatments often must see providers outside of their network which increases the costs of care for these patients. Study after study shows this a major problem and one reason why there isn't behavioral health parity.

Thank you for your commitment to behavioral health care. If CORI can be of help or if you have questions, please reach out to CORI's consultants, Sarah Erickson, at sarah.erickson@unitedstrategiesllc.com or Tara Erickson at Tara@tgeconsultingmn.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Messinger
Chair
Coalition of Recovery Investment