



March 17, 2026

Dear Rep. Hanson:

The Coalition of Recovery Investment (CORI) writes to express support for House File 3904 requiring health plans to reimburse alcoholism, mental health, and chemical dependency services provided by qualified clinical trainees at 100 percent of the rate paid to an independently licensed mental health professional when the same service is delivered within the trainee's scope of practice and under appropriate supervision.

Minnesota is currently experiencing a significant behavioral health and substance use disorder workforce shortage. Across the state, treatment providers are struggling to recruit and retain qualified professionals while demand for services continues to grow. Strengthening the training pipeline for future clinicians is essential if Minnesota is to expand access to treatment and ensure communities have the behavioral health workforce they need.

Clinical trainees—including graduate students, interns, and fellows working toward independent licensure—already provide critical services in treatment programs throughout Minnesota under professional supervision. These trainees are an essential part of the care team and help providers serve individuals with complex mental health and substance use disorders.

Importantly, Minnesota State public programs already allow reimbursement for services delivered by clinical trainees under appropriate supervision. Aligning commercial health plan reimbursement with this standard would create greater consistency across the system and help ensure that all payers support workforce development in behavioral health.

This proposal is also a matter of parity across healthcare professions. In medical settings, physician residents routinely provide patient care services that are billed and reimbursed at the same rate as services delivered by licensed physicians when provided under appropriate supervision. Behavioral health training programs should be treated with the same fairness.

By ensuring reimbursement parity for supervised clinical trainees, this legislation will help strengthen Minnesota's behavioral health workforce pipeline, support treatment providers, and expand access to care for Minnesotans seeking recovery.

CORI urges support for this legislation. If you have any questions, reach out to CORI's consultant, Sarah Erickson, at sarah.erickson@unitedstrategiesllc.com.

Sincerely,
Bill Messinger
Chair, Coalition of Recovery Investment