

April 9th, 2025

RE: Support for HF1380 (Keeler): Clay County PRTF inclusion in HF 2434

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), I write to express our support for the regional psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs) outlined in HF380 and included in HF2434. Expanding access to these vital mental health services is crucial to improving outcomes for youth and families across Minnesota.

Counties are on the front lines of delivering mental health services, and we recognize the urgent need to expand mental health treatment options. Investing in regional PRTFs will enhance capacity to serve youth with serious mental health needs, reducing reliance on more restrictive and costly placements. Furthermore, these investments will help address service gaps in underserved regions, ensuring equitable access to specialized care for youth closer to home.

The mental health crisis continues to place a significant strain on county resources. By expanding regional treatment options, counties will be better equipped to provide appropriate care while easing the burden on local hospitals, law enforcement, and social services. Strengthening the mental health continuum of care is critical to ensuring youth receive timely and effective treatment in settings that best meet their needs.

AMC fully supports the investments outlined in this bill, particularly the commitment to providing resources for psychiatric residential treatment facility start-up and capacity-building grants. These measures will help counties better meet the growing demand for mental health services while improving outcomes for youth and their families.

We urge your support for HF1380 and stand ready to assist in advancing this legislation.

Emilio Lamba

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Association of Minnesota Counties