

May 9, 2022

Health and Human Services Conference Committee

RE: SF 4410

Dear Chair Abeler, Chair Liebling and Conference Committee Members:

We, the undersigned mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs in Minnesota, and affiliated associations and partners, express our support for the inclusion of language to remove barriers to commercial tobacco treatment in the final Health and Human Services omnibus bill.

This language (House Article 3, Sec. 28) would allow more providers to be reimbursed for providing tobacco treatment (education and counseling). Providers would include, but is not limited to, mental health practitioners, mental health professionals, mental health certified peer specialists, alcohol and drug counselors, recovery peers and community health workers. The bill would also remove barriers, such as prior authorization or quantity limits, to the use of FDA-approved medications used in tobacco treatment for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

In support of integrated care, health equity, improved mental health and substance use disorder recovery, a reduction in tobacco addiction and a reduction in tobacco-related illness and deaths, please support this legislation.

We want to thank Chair Abeler and Representative Morrison for authoring this important bipartisan legislation. We look forward to working with you to create a final health and human services bill that supports more Minnesotans' efforts to quit commercial tobacco.

For questions, contact Reba.MathernJacobson@Lung.org of the Lung Mind Alliance.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association of MN
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota
Avivo
CentraCare
Central Minnesota Mental Health Center
Essentia Health
GroupWorks Wellness
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
Hennepin Healthcare System
Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well-Being
MARRCH (Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health)
Mental Health Legislative Network
Mental Health Minnesota
Mental Health Resources
Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (MNSAM)

MN Coalition of Licensed Social Workers
MN Community Health Worker Alliance
Minnesota Recovery Connection
NAMI Minnesota
National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter
Native American Community Clinic
NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center
NUWAY
Options Family & Behavior Services
People Incorporated
River Ridge Recovery
South Central Human Relations Center
This is Medicaid
Touchstone Mental Health
Twin Cities Medical Society
Vail Place
WellShare International
Zumbro Valley Health Center