



February 6, 2023

Dear Members of the Human Service Finance:

NAMI Minnesota is supporting H.F. 586, which would appropriate funding to the Center for Rural Behavioral Health at Minnesota State University, Mankato to establish a mental health training clinic at the University.

The Center for Rural Behavioral Health training clinic would provide an opportunity for current students to more easily obtain the internship and supervision hours needed to become a mental health professional while also being able to provide mental health treatment to people in the community. This program is different in that it creates the first mental health training clinic as part of the MinnState system. Currently, MSUM has a community facing training clinic for both dental hygiene and speech pathology. Having an on-campus training site for future clinicians will allow MSUM to recruit more students into the mental health career pathways and provide an incredible training opportunity for those students right on the campus.

As we have seen with other programs, training people in rural areas leads to a greater likelihood that they will continue to work in or near where they are trained. Workforce shortages in the mental health field are acute, especially in greater Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Abderholden".

Sue Abderholden, MPH
Executive Director



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