



March 4, 2021

Dear Rep. Rasmusson and Sen. Ingebrigtsen:

On behalf of NAMI Minnesota, I am writing to support HF 1305/ SF 1292. This bill will help small mental health crisis stabilization homes, such as Productive Alternatives, be viable and be able to continue to meet the needs of their community.

I had the pleasure of visiting the crisis home several years ago. What I found was a warm, welcoming environment. I talked with two of the people who were there and they shared how helpful it was to have a place like the Productive Alternatives Crisis Stabilization Unit when their symptoms had returned or they felt like they were reaching a crisis point. They were able to obtain the sleep and nutrition they needed, along with support for their recovery. It was very homelike and therapeutic.

In talking with the staff, they expressed concern that smaller crisis homes like theirs were having trouble financially. The system was really set up for 16 bed homes, but in more rural parts of Minnesota, it makes more sense to have more smaller homes spread out around the region so that people can be closer to their own homes while experiencing a crisis.

This bill will help small, yet critical, crisis homes stay open and help people in their communities. It would be very helpful if DHS can modify the daily rate reimbursement process for adult foster care facilities providing mental health crisis stabilization services. One size does not fit all – especially in a diverse state like Minnesota.

We urge the committees that will hear this bill to support its passage. Please let me know if there is anything we can to support this effort.

Sincerely,

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

Sue Abderholden, MPH
Executive Director



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