



AMHERST H.  
**WILDER**  
FOUNDATION

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451 Lexington Parkway N  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
651-280-2000  
Fax: 651-280-3000  
[www.wilder.org](http://www.wilder.org)

March 3, 2021

Representative Peter Fischer  
Chair, Human Behavioral Health Policy Division  
Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Chair Fischer and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, I am sending this letter to support Representative Bierman's House File 1390 – *Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics policy updates*.

The Wilder Foundation is the oldest not-for-profit organization in St. Paul. We have been providing mental health services for children and families in the East Metro since 1924, continually evolving to meet each generation of need in the community for almost a hundred years.

In 2017, we were honored to become one of the first six Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) in Minnesota. Even in the context of 100 years of change and growth, becoming a CCBHC stands out as the single greatest improvement in our ability to meet the needs of children, adults, and families.

As an essential safety net community provider, Wilder serves clients and communities who would not otherwise have access to mental and chemical health care. Of the more than 2,000 families we served in 2020, over 75% were Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color and about 40% of the people we serve speak a primary language other than English. We also have one of the few Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health programs for little children and their families in the city that offers early intervention to radically improve outcomes.

We are honored to serve multiple truly unique populations within our community, and we have been able to build a better continuum of care for them through the CCBHC model.

Minnesota's CCBHCs are part of a new model of delivering integrated behavioral health care to Minnesotans. Originally built under a federal demonstration, the state legislature passed legislation to transition this transformational model into a covered benefit under Medical Assistance.

THANK YOU for passing the authority to transition this model into a Medical Assistance benefit.

**As the state's CCBHC model evolves under a Minnesota-specific care benefit, we must update our statute to ensure alignment with the evolving model.** This process will maintain critical components of the model in our statute while providing better pathways to serve clients with most timely and appropriate care.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the mental health care needs of our communities and our mental health care system in Minnesota.

**Please support House File 1390.**

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PK Yang', written in a cursive style.

Pahoua K. Yang, MSSW, PhD, LICSW, LP  
Vice President, Community Mental Health & Wellness  
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation