



MINNESOTA RECOVERY CONNECTION

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February 12, 2021

To: Rep. Heather Edelson, Rep. Erin Koegel, Rep. Hodan Hassan

Re: HF 287 *Commissioner of human services and health required to study oversight of sober housing programs, report required, and money appropriated.*

Dear Representatives Edelson, Koegel, and Hassan,

Thank you for your leadership in advancing a recovery-oriented system of care in Minnesota. Minnesota Recovery Connection is a 501c3 nonprofit with a mission to strengthen the recovery community through peer-to-peer support, public education, and advocacy. As its Executive Director, I not only work every day with people seeking to sustain a life in long-term recovery from substance use disorders, but I am also a person in long-term recovery. A critical issue in our community is recovery-supportive housing.

I am writing to express Minnesota Recovery Connection's support for HF 287. This bill will engage representatives from the substance use disorder and mental health recovery communities, nonprofit recovery advocacy organizations, healthcare professionals, government stakeholders and others in a much-needed assessment of Minnesota's continuum of care for people with substance use and co-occurring disorders. The focus on recovery residences, also known as "sober homes," will shed light on gaps, barriers and opportunities in the status quo of recovery-supportive housing.

I am hopeful that this study will yield outcomes that increase the availability of and access to recovery residences; ensure consumer protections; and connect existing recovery support services in a wrap-around model of person-centered care. Treatment is an acute intervention, but recovery is an ongoing process that requires the same integrated network of support services afforded to other chronic illnesses. Having a safe, affordable, and recovery-supportive place to live is critical for long-term recovery from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

Thank you for your support of the recovery community.

Sincerely,

Wendy Jones, Executive Director
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