

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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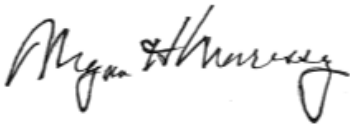
**RE: Please support sustaining and growing our mental health workforce HF 970**

Dear Chair Fischer and members of the Behavioral Health Policy Division:

I am the director of the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. In this role I have an understanding of the need for mental health professionals in rural communities throughout Minnesota, as well as the need for mental health professionals who identify as BIPOC. Mental health services are vital to all communities, but such services must be culturally informed in order to be effective. Recruiting, retaining and supporting BIPOC professionals is critical for Minnesota to be able to have effective mental health treatment and services. We know that BIPOC students confront significant challenges in pursuing higher education and mental health training.

For all of the above reasons, I am writing to ask for your support for HF970. This bill provides a comprehensive array of strategies that address building a more informed, competent mental health workforce in our state. I strongly support the efforts outlined in this bill and urge your support to invest in strengthening our mental health system for all Minnesotans by investing in our workforce.

Thank you,



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