

Minnesota Competency Attainment Board  
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Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 8, 2025

Hon. Tina Liebling  
Co-Chair  
Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
5th Floor, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. Peggy Scott  
Co-Chair  
Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Liebling, Chair Scott, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board and the employees of the Minnesota Competency Attainment Board (MNCAB), we write in support of the Judiciary Finance Omnibus Bill, H.F. 2300. MNCAB started its work in July 2023, with the first employees hired in early 2024. MNCAB has made noteworthy progress in the last year and half; establishing the necessary structures to implement a new state agency and hiring individuals to do the work as directed in state law. As of this week, MNCAB employs thirty (30) forensic navigators throughout the state of Minnesota and thirteen (13) additional employees to support their work, such as supervisors, HR, IT, and finance personnel.

We appreciate the inclusion of MNCAB's policy proposals in the bill as provided in Article 2, Section 14. The addition of the term "monitoring" to the sections related to a forensic navigator's duties clarifies that a forensic navigator does not have the same supervision role or authority as other entities, such as probation and pre-trial services. This change will help explain a forensic navigator's role with our partners statewide. Additionally, the changes to the data collection requirements will permit us to collaborate effectively with our partners at the State Court Administrator's Office and eliminate the need to collect duplicate data, making our work more efficient.

We are grateful to Chair Liebling, Chair Scott, committee staff, and the committee members for including modest additional funding for MNCAB, which provides some flexibility for restrained growth over the next two years. It is a challenge to adequately anticipate funding needs for a new program and ensure fair and sufficient compensation for current employees and those who join us as we expand.

MNCAB recognizes the realities of the committee's fiscal target and is thankful for the ongoing support for our mission. We also want to acknowledge that even though the proposed budget provides for some growth, it will not enable us to fully achieve our goal of meeting the needs of the courts and defendants statewide by the end of biennium. As budget discussions continue through the remainder of the legislative session, we are happy to provide additional or updated information about our fiscal costs.

We thank the chairs and the committee for including MNCAB's requests in H.F. 2300, Judiciary Finance Omnibus Bill. We value the relationships we've built at the Legislature this year and look forward to continuing these partnerships as MNCAB grows and strives to support individuals around the state in accessing mental health services and working toward attaining competency.

Sincerely,



Ryan Flynn  
Board Chair



Kim Larson  
Program Administrator