



125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2108
651-224-3344, fax: 651-224-6540
www.mncounties.org



**Minnesota Association of County
Social Service Administrators**

125 Charles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103-2108
651-789-4340, fax: 651-224-6540
www.macssa.org

March 9, 2015

Re: SF 1078

Dear Committee Members:

We are writing to express our associations' support for SF 1078, a bill that would strengthen counties' ability to provide effective supports for people enrolled in Minnesota's public health care programs and receiving social services. The integration of data and the coordination of care are cornerstones to our ability to innovate in health care delivery and social services systems. These approaches are encouraged by the Departments of Health and Human Services. Minnesota laws need to be updated to allow us to follow state mandates and improve outcomes for public clients.

As counties strive to provide supports in housing, food support, transportation, as well as health care, we can provide appropriate services that can help clients most at risk of poor health. These clients often experience housing instability and have multiple health challenges. Current state law forces Minnesota counties to create workarounds to offer integrated services for public clients. SF 1078 would modernize state law so that we can provide these services in more effective and efficient ways.

SF 1078 helps counties, protects privacy, and benefits our most needy resident. It will reduce inefficiencies and lower health care costs. We ask for your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Westlund
Health and Human Services Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

Eric Ratzmann
Director
Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators