



Letter of Support – H.F. 1266

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Co-Chair Lee, Co-Chair Franson, and Members of the House Capital Investments Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our more than 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of H.F. 1266.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. As a community partner of Clay County, we believe that promoting a healthy and thriving community is vital to the vibrancy of our region and state. To promote the well-being of our youth, we support the construction of a new nonsecure juvenile detention facility (NSJF) in the city of Moorhead, which will provide supportive services, transitional housing, and appropriate care for male and female juveniles. The mission of this facility is to provide “a learning environment where the values of each individual are recognized, developed, and matured for the betterment of our community.” This newly constructed facility will better equip Clay County to meet the varying needs of our community, supporting vulnerable youth as they learn, develop, and grow.

The requested funding for this new Clay County facility is vital, as the County is seeking support to convert the existing NSJF building into a secure Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) needed to fill critical shortages in psychiatric services across the state. Repurposing this building to a PRTF strengthens the mental healthcare infrastructure of the state but requires the construction of a new NSJF. The combination of these two facilities will provide our state with the infrastructure necessary to holistically and effectively meet the diverse needs of Minnesotans.

To ensure a safe, supportive, and thriving community, we urge you to support H.F. 1266 and provide adequate supportive services and residential care to the youth of our region.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and your dedication to Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce