



Association of Minnesota Counties

Rep. Joe Schomacker, Chair
Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 15, 2017

RE: House File 1938, Substance Use Disorder Reform

Dear Chairman Schomacker and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for House File 1938, which creates substance use disorder reform in the state of Minnesota. This bill includes multiple provisions that will align programs to allow for CMS approval of Medicaid reimbursement. As you know, substance abuse can be devastating to people and families. The impact of substance abuse can often be multigenerational. Substance use of a parent can lead to increased need for child protection services, and often results in court intervention.

House File 1938 reforms how services are provided to individuals so that they can more easily access care. As clients access appropriate care more readily, yielding in higher rates of success, Medicaid reimbursement relieves counties of the financial burden. This bill achieves this by consolidating the Rule 25 assessment and the Rule 31 treatment program, and directing the state to apply for the Substance Use Disorder waiver so that we can provide treatment in facilities with more than 16 beds by moving to a medical model. Additionally, this bill would allow for Medicaid reimbursement to cover the county share for detox, as detox would become a medical service under withdrawal management. This provision alone would provide a significant cost savings for many of our counties.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and we thank you for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Julie Ring, Executive Director
Association on Minnesota Counties

CC: Members of the Health and Human Services Reform Committee
Emily Piper, DHS Commissioner