



Everytown for Gun Safety

Catherine Tang, Director of Government Affairs, Midwest

HF 5280, Pro: Federal Waivers for Health Related Social Needs

April 15, 2024

Re: Federal Waivers for Health Related Social Needs in Minnesota

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Service Committee,

This letter is in support of Article 7, Section 3: language for federal waivers for health related social needs and violence prevention coverage in Medicaid under HF 5280. Everytown for Gun Safety is the largest violence prevention organization in America. Supporting efforts to address community violence as a public health crisis in Minnesota is a priority for Everytown, and this is a critical tool to fight for public safety and protect communities from gun violence.

Importantly, this language would require the Commissioner to include proposed legislative language to facilitate funding by Medicaid and other federal sources for social services, including violence intervention services. Ultimately, this would make it easier for Minnesota to draw from federal sources of funding to support survivors, people likely to be victims of gun violence, and people likely to perpetrate gun violence—helping to prevent further gun violence and protect Minnesota communities.

Community violence intervention programs are uniquely situated to serve victims and prevent future acts of violence, as trusted partners and credible messengers. Violence intervention programs are evidence backed, community-centered tools that are critical to reducing gun violence in the most impacted communities. Hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) are also crucial tools in the fight against gun violence. A 2014–2018 retrospective cohort study of 528 15-24 year olds admitted to a Bronx trauma center found that receiving HVIP (i.e., Stand up to Violence) services increased a survivor’s odds of attending follow up medical appointments by 2.29 times, and reduced their odds of violent reinjury by over 50 percent in the three months following hospital admission.¹ It is critical that these types of programs receive the resources they need to serve communities most impacted by gun violence.

I encourage members of the committee to please support Article 7, Section 3 to HF 5280, to

¹ Noé D. Romo et al., “Improving Adolescent Violent Trauma Outcomes With a Hospital-Based Violence Prevention Initiative,” *Hospital Pediatrics*, January 4, 2023, e2021006428, <https://doi.org/10.1542/hpeds.2021-006428>.

address violence prevention coverage through Medicaid in Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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