



Driving Excellence in Addiction Care

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Tina Liebling
Chair, House Committee on Health Finance and Policy
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
State Office Building, Room 477
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee,

MARRCH is a professional association of addiction treatment professionals and organizations striving to raise awareness about addiction and the power of recovery. We represent more than 75 organizations and a workforce of more than 5,000 individuals with member in every region of Minnesota. MARRCH is committed to improving access to care, growing our workforce and building a sustainable rate structure from with to build a world-class, evidence-based, person-centered behavioral healthcare continuum.

Thanks for the important work of this committee and ongoing efforts to improve addiction care in Minnesota. We are writing today in support of (HF 19) the elimination of the "buy and bill" requirement for injectables associated with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

One of the barriers preventing greater client access involves the "buy and bill", an arrangement through which health care providers purchase pharmaceutical product directly form a wholesaler or specialty distributors to have supply of provider-administered medication on hand for treatment of new patients. In this arrangement, most providers are generally not paid until their patients' covered insurance claims are reimbursed by the payer. Many small providers and clinics do not have the administration staff or necessary overhead to manage this type of inventory control, billing systems and upfront costs.

MARRCH supports (HF 19) and all efforts to eliminate the "buy and bill" requirement, thereby helping increase greater access for clients. Please reach-out if you have any questions or want to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Magnuson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Magnuson
Executive Director

Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH)