

March 20, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 1279 (Edelson) State required to pay medical examination costs for criminal sexual conduct victim.

Dear Chair Liebling and committee members,

On behalf of Allina Health, I would like to express my strong support for HF1279, which would require the state to pay for costs incurred for medical examinations of a victim of criminal sexual conduct.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system with 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities, and central and southern Minnesota. As a not-for-profit healthcare system, we are dedicated to serving our communities by providing exceptional care, as we prevent illness, restore health and provide comfort to all who entrust us with their care. As part of our integrated care system and ensuring access to services, our sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) completed over 350 sexual assault exams in 2022.

Currently, the costs of these tests lay with the county in which the examination is performed. However, this county-by-county approach has led to an inconsistent and fragmented billing system that often creates additional administrative burden and difficulty accessing reimbursement. HF1279, which transfers responsibility from the counties to the state for a centralized and uniform billing process, would help alleviate some of the administrative burdens that our teams face and allow them to focus on what matters most: caring for the patient. For these reasons, we urge you to support HF1279.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Amy Schmitz
Manager, Forensic Nursing Services
Allina Health