



Driving Excellence in Addiction Care

To: Chair Noor—House Human Services Finance Committee  
From: Brian Zirbes, MARRCH Executive Director  
Subject: Letter of Support for [HF4190](#)  
Date: April 10, 2024

Chair Noor, and committee members--

MARRCH is pleased to offer our support and testimony to HF4190. We have appreciated the engagement and dialogue with the MN Department of Human Services, Senate and House staff, the MN Association of County Social Service Administrators, the Mental Health Legislative Network, and many other stakeholders. We are especially appreciative of the authors for this funding bill, **Representatives Baker, Frederick, Curran, Hollins, and Chair Fischer**.

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field has undergone substantial changes in a relatively short amount of time. Over the past several years, Minnesota has experienced **a net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers** (net loss of 25 in 2022, net loss of 20 in 2023). These losses are having a disproportionate impact in greater Minnesota (in 2022 42% of closures were outside of the 7 county metro area; 41% in 2023). Despite our unwavering commitment, we find ourselves at a critical juncture.

With overdose deaths at an all time high, we are at a critical breaking point and need **immediate and long-term relief**. These 2024 legislative priorities were identified and developed by more than 240 SUD professionals across the state.

- Waiving Fees for IDs (Sections 1, 2, and 3)
  - Birth certificate and driver's license/ID card
- SUD rates
  - Develop group peer rate (section 4 and 5)
  - "Unstrike" SUD and be included in 3% increase effective Jan. 1, 2024 (section 7)
  - Auto inflation adjustment (section 7)
  - Implement rate methodology recommendations ASAP (section 11)
- SUD Treatment Effectiveness (Section 6)
  - Create an SUD data dashboard
- Extend rate study to include adolescent SUD (residential/non-residential, Withdrawal Management) and Room and Board payments (section 8)
- 1115 Waiver for Incarceration (section 9)
- Transition Support Workgroup (Section 10)

- Develop recommendations related to housing, food support, childcare, and transportation services for people transitioning out of SUD services
- Deduct student loan payments from MN taxes (Section 12)

**The stark reality we face is one where, without immediate and targeted financial support, more providers will be forced to close their doors, thus limiting options for people needing help, and exacerbating an already dire public health crisis.**

Investing in SUD services is an investment in the health and well-being of our state. It is a step towards:

- Stabilizing existing services to ensure no further loss of SUD providers.
- Enhancing access to treatment for adolescents and adults in both urban and rural areas, particularly in greater Minnesota where the need is most acute.
- Supporting recovery and reducing the broader social and economic impacts of substance use disorders on our communities.

The challenges we face are significant, but not insurmountable. With your support, we can ensure that individuals battling substance use disorders receive the care and support they need to rebuild their lives. **We urge you to prioritize immediate funding this session.** We ask you to stand with us in our mission, and to help stem the tide of this crisis that is ravaging our state.

On behalf of our 60+ member organizations and the thousands of Alcohol and Drug counselors we represent, we thank you for considering our plea and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of all Minnesotans.