



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

Letter of Support – H.F. 1380

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Chair Mohamud and members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo-Moorhead-West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of H.F. 1380.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. As a community partner of Clay County, we believe that promoting a healthy and thriving community is vital to the vibrancy of our region and state. Due to the lack of capacity at existing psychiatric residential treatment facilities across Minnesota and the lack of access to these essential care services in Northwestern Minnesota, children and families must seek support outside of our state. It is critical that children receive services close to their home communities, families, and local service providers. This facility is a fundamental addition to the healthcare infrastructure of not only Clay County but the entire state of Minnesota.

Bringing this facility and its services to Clay County will decrease pressures on emergency service providers, such as emergency rooms, general healthcare facilities, and law enforcement, and provide our community with specialized care for children with severe mental health and psychiatric needs. This is why numerous counties and tribal nations across the state have established strategic partnerships to support funding for this facility, promoting holistic and long-term health and healing services for the most vulnerable among us.

Moreover, the Chamber fully supports Clay County's request to increase our state's healthcare capacity, promote robust healthcare solutions, and enhance the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and your dedication to Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce