



Mental Health Minnesota is the voice of lived mental health experience.

We carry that declaration forward as we work to advance mental health and well-being for all, increase access to mental health treatment and services, and provide education, resources and support across Minnesota.

Dear Members of the Capital Investment Committee,

On behalf of Mental Health Minnesota, I am writing to urge you to support HF2587, which would fund the addition of 50 psychiatric beds at the Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC).

Over the last decade, the number of people deemed incompetent to stand trial and committed because of a mental illness has increased significantly. As a result, people are languishing in jails because there are not enough inpatient psychiatric beds to meet these increased needs. In addition, because the 48-hour-rule prioritizes admissions to AMRTC for those currently in jails, people who are in community hospitals are not able to access state-operated treatment even when that higher level of care is necessary to help them recover.

This lack of access to state-operated inpatient psychiatric care puts people's long-term recovery at risk. It leaves people in community hospitals that may struggle to provide the intensive treatment that patients need to address serious mental illness symptoms. It leaves people sitting in jail cells instead of hospital beds when they need (and deserve) mental health treatment, not incarceration. It also puts the state of Minnesota at risk for lawsuits and significant fines, as has happened in other states. State funding should be spend providing treatment and care, not on lawsuits and fines.

The final report of the Priority Admissions Panel agreed in early 2025 that adding 50 psychiatric beds to AMRTC is critical to meeting the needs of individuals and legislative requirements. In addition, Direct Care and Treatment has "shovel ready" plans to demolish the Miller Building and add the 50 psychiatric beds.

Mental Health Minnesota believes that there are many areas of the mental health system that must be expanded and adequately funded to meet the needs of Minnesotans, including upstream services that can help people avoid mental health crisis and use of psychiatric emergency and inpatient care. However, part of the system we are still building is also dependent upon inpatient care, and the inadequate number of beds means that people who need the treatment provided at AMRTC are not receiving it.

We can and must do better for those struggling with serious mental illness. Please support HF2587. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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