



March 12, 2025

The Honorable Joe Schomacker
Chair, Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Mohamud Noor
DFL Lead, Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
5th Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center Letter Regarding HF 2115

Dear Chair Schomacker, DFL Lead Noor, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HF 2115.

We support the addition of informed decision-making curriculum and annual competency evaluations for case managers by the Department of Human Services (lines 5.4 and 5.6-5.7). Informed decision making is essential for people with disabilities to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Many case managers lack the necessary training on this important topic, and this requirement will help ensure that people who receive supports and services retain as much control over their lives as possible.

We are opposed to the attempt to make permanent the change to the priority admissions rule that states that individuals being held in jail must be admitted within 48 hours of a determination by Direct Care and Treatment that a medically appropriate bed is available in a state-operated mental health program (lines 54.18-54.19). This change would provide complete discretion to Direct Care and Treatment regarding who should receive treatment in state-operated mental health programs. Last year, the Priority Admissions Task Force published nine recommendations to address the systemic issues that led to the original creation of the priority admissions statute. This body has not yet taken meaningful steps to implement many of these recommendations. Eliminating the 48-hour rule requirement at this time without

implementing the other recommendations of the task force will exacerbate the original issue that the rule was meant to address: individuals with mental illness in need of treatment are inappropriately stuck in jails without proper medical care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HF 2115.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Purrington
Legal Director/Deputy Director
Minnesota Disability Law Center



Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project

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