

RE: HF3470/SF 3257 - Children's MN - Minnesota Hospital Moratorium Exception

Dear Members of the Committee,

We write today in support of the addition of 22 psychiatric beds at Children's MN (HF3470/SF 3257).

Hennepin Healthcare System has proudly served Minnesotans in need of critical mental health and recovery services for decades. Hennepin Healthcare offers 24/7 Acute Psychiatric Services (APS), partial hospitalization, day treatment, adult inpatient care, as well as psychiatric consultations and outpatient therapies.

We support adding more psychiatric beds to meet the needs of the children of Minnesota. Our pediatricians and child mental health providers have frequent concerns about the lack of appropriate placement for children in need of acute, inpatient mental health care. We have experienced an increase in youth boarding in our Emergency Department when there is no appropriate community or inpatient setting available to them, as many have a higher acuity of need and require an intensive level of care that a hospital can provide. Hennepin Healthcare does not provide youth focused inpatient mental health beds, we are supportive of our partners at Children's MN increasing their capacity so we may work with them to support more children who need inpatient care.

Children's MN serves a similar percentage of Medicaid patients to Hennepin Healthcare, both nearing 50% Medicaid revenue. We ask that the state takes this into consideration and helps to ensure health systems that rely on public programs are able to staff to an adequate level to maintain the inpatient services that the state relies on to care for Medicaid patients.

Hennepin Healthcare System supports adding more children's mental health beds in an equitable manner, so children in Minnesota, regardless of the type of their health insurance, are able to access this service.

Sincerely,



Jennifer DeCubellis
Chief Executive Officer
Hennepin Healthcare System

2022