



March 31, 2023

Re: SF2995

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on SF2995. The Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) is made up of over 4,000 health and human service professionals statewide. Our members cover the health and human service spectrum—mental health providers, social workers, case managers, etc.—and are employed by for-profit and nonprofit entities, as well as state and local government agencies.

We are grateful for numerous provisions and investments included in SF2995 aimed at improving health and human services in Minnesota, such as those to provide continuous Medical Assistance eligibility for children, funding for background studies operations, workplace violence prevention grants for health care entities, and the grant to the Center for Rural Behavioral Health.

However, we urge the committee to consider the addition of human services workplace safety grants, as outlined in SF1489, in your final omnibus bill. Provisions in SF1489 would help address a critical component of HHS provider burnout and the workforce shortage by providing human services agencies with the resources they need to ensure the safety of their employees.

We are supportive of the additions to SF2995 to provide workplace violence prevention grants for health care entities but are disappointed that similar provisions were not included in any Senate Committee omnibus bills with jurisdiction over human services. This sends a clear message to human services providers that while we value safety of employees in other professions such as health care, their safety in professions where safety incidents are ubiquitous and growing, is not valued.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. Please reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns at msancartier@mnssa.org.

Sincerely,

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