

May 10, 2022

Rep. David Tomassoni  
Sen. Jason Rarick  
Sen. Karin Housley  
Sen. John Jasinski  
Sen. Greg Clausen

Rep. Connie Bernardy  
Rep. Shelly Christensen  
Rep. Ginny Klevorn  
Rep. Heather Keeler  
Rep. Marion O'Neill



To the members of the Higher Education Conference Committee:

CORI is an organization of individuals and groups who are committed to educating and advocating for additional resources and innovative policy changes to ensure Minnesotans have access to quality substance use disorder treatment options. CORI is dedicated to advancing successful public policy that helps Minnesotans recover from the consequences of addiction and have access to a continuum of care to meet their needs. CORI's membership is made up of SUD providers, hospitals, health care groups, recovery community advocates, counties, and private sector businesses.

**We are writing today to ask for your support for HF3552/SF3424 authored by Rep. Erin Koegel and Sen. Mark Koran. This legislation would provide needed funding for the only addiction medicine fellowship in Minnesota. The funding request would train 15 physicians in the specialty of addiction medicine over 5 years at the fellowship housed between the University of Minnesota Department of Psychiatry and HCMC's addiction medicine department.**

There are over 20 million Americans that have a substance use disorder and roughly only 1 in 10 of them receive the treatment they need. One reason for this is the lack of specially trained providers, especially physicians trained in addiction medicine that can provide medication assisted treatment (MAT) options for many patients. According to the American Board of Medical Specialties, there are only 3,000 physicians nationwide specially trained in addiction medicine and that's not enough.

Funding this fellowship will train physicians to become experts in the prevention, clinical evaluation, treatment, and ongoing care of those with addiction. Recent fellows are running Project ECHO's, treating patients in critical populations and locations around the state and becoming teachers themselves.

Our coalition strongly supports funding for the addition medicine fellowship and we thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions for us, please contact our contract lobbyist, Sarah Erickson, at 651-303-0990.

Sincerely,

Bill Messinger  
Chair, CORI