



March 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Education Finance and Policy Committee:

NAMI Minnesota strongly supports SF 782 which would provide extended time revenue for students placed in a residential facility or juvenile justice facility.

When a child or teen is placed in a residential facility, they spend part of their day in treatment. This means that many are not receiving a full day of education. They are also being educated by the school where the facility is located, so may not have formed a relationship with the teachers. More than likely, their symptoms were interfering with their being successful in school before they were even admitted to the treatment facility, so they were already lagging behind their peers.

Many teens with a serious mental illness drop out of school and never graduate. Missing school, symptoms interfering with learning and feeling unsuccessful in school all contribute to poor graduation rates. Supporting these students to have access to additional classroom time during the summer will help them to catch up to their peers and to be more successful in school.

Please support SF 782. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Abderholden".

Sue Abderholden, MPH  
Executive Director



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