



March 11, 2022

Dear Representative,

Formed in 1963, the Ramsey County League of Local Governments (RCLLG) is comprised of the 15 cities, one township and five school districts lying in whole or in part within Ramsey County, as well as the Ramsey County government. RCLLG's mission is to foster cooperation among Ramsey County units of government in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery.

Collectively, our local units of government have identified mental health as an issue that is core to its citizens and communities. The impacts of COVID-19, racial injustice and economic uncertainty have had far reaching negative impacts for people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds in our communities, and have stretched our capacity to respond to growing mental health challenges. Therefore, the Ramsey County League of Local Government have adopted the following two legislative priorities for 2022:

**1. Due to the strong link between mental health and homelessness, *The Ramsey County League of Local Governments advocates for Housing Infrastructure Bond (HIB) money to expand the affordable housing stock in our communities, including funding for the Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care 2022 legislative ask. Specifically, this means state dollars for continuing the Continuum's work on the 100-bed family shelter, the 100-bed singles shelter, the day shelter and Familiar Faces.***

**2. Due to the strong link between mental health and self-advocacy, *The Ramsey County League of Local Governments recognizes the need for mental health services and requests state funding for Ramsey County in support of the Voluntary Engagement law\*, passed in 2021. We also strongly oppose any reductions in the Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) funding formula.***

On behalf of the member cities, township, school districts and county government, we ask that you support these legislative actions.

Sincerely,

Scott Arcand	Marylee Abrams	Teresa Miller	Jan Jenson
Scott Arcand President	Marylee Abrams Vice President	Teresa Miller Treasurer	Jan Jenson Past President

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***\*Voluntary admission is preferred over involuntary commitment and treatment. Any person 16 years of age or older may request to be admitted to a treatment facility or state-operated treatment program as a voluntary patient for observation, evaluation, diagnosis, care and treatment without making formal written application.***