MINNESOTA ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

April 8, 2026

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) urges your support of SF 8 - a bill that would require payers to support the collaborative care model to treat behavioral health.

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota, and our members take care of patients, families and communities across the state. We are leaders in primary care and see it as our job to work with our teams to keep our patients healthy and manage our patients' chronic conditions - including behavioral health issues. Family physicians are well trained in behavioral health and are in a strong position to lead multi-disciplinary teams collaboratively to assist patients and families.

Senate file 8 would require payers in Minnesota to activate the codes that would reimburse for the collaborative care model. The collaborative care model supports the primary care provider's leadership of a team that includes a behavioral health care manager and a psychiatric consultant to ensure a patient's needs are addressed and their conditions can be continuously managed within their primary care clinic. All Minnesotans deserve access to this highly effective model, and ensuring adequate payment is essential for greater implementation and expansion.

This and other investments in primary care are needed to improve the health of Minnesotans. MAFP urges your support of SF 8 as an important step in addressing the behavioral health needs of our patients. We look forward to engaging with you and your colleagues and are grateful for our shared commitment to the health of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



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