



March 16th, 2023

Relating to support for additional funding for crisis services to youth and young adults in SB 2012.

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

At Prairie St. John's we have seen the need for behavioral health services continue to trend up at an alarming rate over the last several years. In 2020 Prairie St. John's took 2,730 calls for inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services for children and adolescents. In 2021, we took 3,700 calls seeking services for this same population. There is tremendous value in putting resources towards prevention and treatment for such a vulnerable population.

At Prairie St. John's we work with several entities throughout the region, Stepping Stones Resource Center and other similar entities cannot do this work alone and with the increased need noted via the data above increased funding is required across the state to care for our most vulnerable residents.

In addition to the \$2,000,000 funding proposed in this amendment Prairie St. John's is advocating for at least \$500,000 per year in funding to Stepping Stones Resource Center for crisis services to youth and young adults while they wait to access existing programs.

Thank you again for your commitment to the behavioral health needs of our residents. Please feel free to contact me at my information below if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Ty Hegland
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director
Prairie St. John's
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