

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I'm writing in support of additional funding for Executive Branch personnel services, and asking you reject proposals to increase the attrition rates as outlined in Part R of the Governor's proposed budget for LD210.

I work for DHHS-Riverview Psychiatric Center Outpatient Services. We currently have an opening at Outpatient Services for an Intensive Case Manager. Previously, when we had an opening for case management it took six months to get a ICM (Intensive Case Manager) transferred from Riverview due to the staffing shortages there. A case manager left employment here to accept a position with significantly higher wages in another agency.

Riverview Psychiatric Center (RPC) and RPC-Outpatient Services (RPC-OPS) work with very challenging mentally ill patients that can be a danger to themselves and others, making it difficult to retain employees for the wages they are paid. Some staff have been significantly injured and out of work for some time. Workers have been left short staffed on units creating an unsafe environment. Employees leave when they realize there is not enough staff to keep themselves and patients safe. I urge the Committee to support RPC-OPS and Executive Branch workers in LD 210, thank you.

Jeanne Bilodeau
RPC-OPS Coordinator