



## ATAM – The Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota

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May 2, 2023

Dear Chair Noor, Chair Hoffman and Human Services Conferees:

Thank you so much for your service and commitment to people who have disabilities this session. We appreciate the proposals to invest in the MA EIDBI program included in the House and the Senate so that children with autism and their families are able to access early intensive interventions when they matter most to skill development and quality of life.

MA EIDBI funding proposals will help provider agencies recover from the twin crises of significant carryover losses after the pandemic and the related great resignation of staff that has severely limited the ability to serve existing and new families. Agencies have had to restructure by closing locations, stopping intake, reducing hours of current children served. Waitlists continue to grow and are years long in many places. Fixing the antiquated reimbursement system with a rate that will attract and retain more professionals as well as providing immediate relief for provider agencies will provide the flexibility needed to rebuild provider capacity and improve service to children with autism.

Specifically, we support these proposals to help stabilize the MA EIDBI provider sector:

**House SF 2934 (first unofficial engrossment), Article 1, Section 57:** a 15.8% rate increase for MA EIDBI agency providers so that autism providers can attract and retain staff to deliver critical early intervention services to current and new children and families.

**Senate SF 2934 (third engrossment), Article 1, Section 55:** an autism emergency grant program to provide a lifeline to existing providers struggling under significant debt and increasing expenses to keep their doors open.

These investments will allow agencies to better serve children who need timely access to intensive early intervention services. Thank you for prioritizing this critical funding in the final Human Services budget bill.

Yours,

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President, Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota

*The following are the sponsoring organizations of the Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota:*

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