

Chair Noor and Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee,

My name is Lisa Friesenhahn and I am submitting this written testimony in support of HF 240, the bill proposing to increase the 40-hour household cap for parents of minors and spouses for the CDCS and CFSS programs. The passage of this bill will help my family and so many others.

We are a family with two parents and six children. We have adopted four children with special needs all whom qualify for PCA services, two of those are minors, both are assessed to need nearly 40 hours of care per week. Our family is currently benefiting from the Covid Waiver that allows parents of minors and spouses to be paid in the PCA program and there is not a cap on hours. When the Federal Public Health Emergency ends, this provision ends. We will no longer be able to work for our minor children. When PCA transitions to CFSS in the next few years, we will again be able to be paid to provide care for our minor children but without this bill there will be a 40-hour cap for the household. My husband and I have become PCA's to provide for our children's multiple needs. It has been a huge relief being able to be their PCA and provide care for them when unable to find outside staff, having concerns of exposure to Covid, and being unable to have both parents be employed outside the home due to the needs of the children. We currently are able to provide all the needed care within their qualified hours with just the additional help of our college aged son who provides some additional hours when he is able to do so. However, if we were capped at 40 hours for our minor children, this would not be possible. My husband Leonard is employed outside the home during the day but assists with providing care for the children on evenings, weekends, and any days off such as Holidays. I am an RN, but due to the high/constant level of needs of the children, I am unable to work outside the home at this time. Being able to provide much needed PCA care to our children has been a huge blessing to our family both from the continuity caregiver perspective and from the ability to have some financial stability. Capping the family hours would significantly impact our ability to provide for our family and be detrimental during these particularly tough economic times.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HF 240, and I ask for your support of the bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Friesenhahn, RN, PCA

nursie0427@gmail.com

19740 Erin Avenue

Prior Lake, MN 55372

612-387-3405