May 2, 2023

> **TO:** **Members of the Human Services Conference Committee | SF 2934**
>
> **RE:** **Please Include Investments in Supported Decision Making in Final Bill**

We urge your support of the Supported Decision-Making Grant program found in the Senate Human Services Omnibus bill (taken from SF 2397). This program will help persons with disabilities and older adults increase their informed choice and decision-making abilities, and reduce unnecessary guardianships. The Supported Decision-Making Grant program would provide $4.5 million in one-time money to DHS to allot grants to organizations, Tribes and counties providing supported decision-making services.

Supported decision-making is a best practice in helping individuals with cognitive or other limitations make informed choices. It respects the autonomy of the individual living with disabilities or cognitive impairment, while intentionally supporting individuals to build their confidence and competence in decision-making.

Furthermore – supported decision-making provides critical alternatives to the more restrictive methods of alternative decision making of guardianship and conservatorship. While guardianship is appropriate in some instances, it should be the very last alternative considered as it can greatly restrict a persons' ability to make decisions about where to live, their healthcare decisions, or even if they can vote.

All told this grant funding program will increase access to the service, and facilitate a culture shift toward supported decision-making service options as a first, more personcentered choice. We respectfully urge you to include it in the conference committee report.

Additional Supporters Include:

Dakota County	Human Services of Faribault & Martin Counties
Ramsey County	Alexandra House, Inc.
Disability Law Center	Right at Home Twin Cities
Legal Services Advocacy Project	Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association
Alzheimer's Association	See Vang Thai LLC Attorney at Law
Minnesota Gerontological Society	Robert McLeod, Attorney