



Chair Moran and Honorable members of the House Health & Human Services Policy Committee,

Thank you for your work this session on behalf of your constituents with disabilities, their family members, direct service professionals, and allies – especially in responding to their unique challenges and barriers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are provisions of interest in the A20-0745 amendment to House File 3104, and one item that we hope you will consider in future discussion about the health & human services policy bill.

Provisions of interest in HF 3104 A20-0745:

Article 2

Sec. 2, 5, 6, and 7 – Sexual Violence Prevention Training for Direct Support Professionals. The Arc Minnesota is greatly appreciative that our sexual violence prevention training proposal has been included here, as Direct Support Professionals are critical allies in the broad-based effort to prevent sexual violence against people with disabilities.

Sec. 3, subd. 3(c)(5-8) – Assessment & Initial Service Planning. The Arc Minnesota applauds efforts to ensure that assessments and service planning focus on *all* options available for home and work settings – not just those traditionally offered – and to support individuals with disabilities in building relationships that foster true belonging in community.

Sec. 14, subd. 3(c) – Consumer Directed Community Supports. The Arc Minnesota is grateful for the policy direction outlined here, as we fully support promoting Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) as the most self-directed option available for individuals accessing Home and Community Based Services waivers. However, we hope to avoid placing additional burden on individuals and/or their family members in demonstrating that CDCS would be more cost-effective than other options.

Article 3

Sec. 42 – Early Intensive Developmental & Behavioral Interventions. We are deeply grateful for the Department’s leadership in ensuring that children with disabilities accessing Early Intensive Developmental & Behavioral Intervention services are free from restrictive and deprivation procedures.

Other considerations:

In continuing discussion about the health & human services policy omnibus bill, we hope members will consider language from article 3, section 1 of the A12 amendment to Senate File 3322, which would codify Employment First, Independent Living First, and Self-Direction First policies. The Arc Minnesota enthusiastically supports this policy direction, helping maximize individuals’ autonomy and self-determination while offering equitable access to the right type/amount of support at the right time.

Thank you for your time and attention to The Arc Minnesota’s policy priorities outlined here. We are happy to answer questions or provide additional information as needed, and are grateful for your leadership this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Andrea Zuber, Chief Executive Officer

Alicia Munson, Public Policy Director