



Dear House Human Services Finance Committee Members,

The Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance stands in strong support of **HF 1384/SF 1272**, which would make improvements to Minnesota's Medicaid program for Employed People with Disabilities (MA-EPD) program. On behalf of the more than 100,000 Minnesotans living with a brain injury we want to thank you for your efforts and let you know we are willing to help move this issue forward any way we can.

MA-EPD has been a crucial program that allows individuals to work while still receiving MA care that they need while allowing higher income and asset limits than standard MA. Over the last 20 years, MA-EPD has allowed people with disabilities to work and live independently in their own communities. However, because of the importance of this program, it is time that it is updated.

People with disabilities are often forced to make financial decisions every month due to the unnecessary costs and confusing standards that they face in order to remain eligible for MA. Eliminating the asset limit of \$20,000 for Employed Persons with Disabilities would greatly improve this situation by removing a counterproductive disincentive to saving money for a great number of Minnesotans with brain injury and other disabilities. Additionally, eliminating the premiums for the program will remove the additional tax on working Minnesotans with brain injury and other disabilities.

The Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance is committed to reducing disincentives to work that are unintentionally built into the MA-EPD program so that people with disabilities can live independently within their own communities. Thank you so much for taking steps that begin to address the inequity in the MA program for low income elderly and disabled individuals.

Sincerely,

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