



Legal Services Advocacy Project

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Peter Fischer  
Chair, Human Services Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
551 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

the Honorable Debra Kiel  
Republican Lead, Human Services Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
203 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Luke Frederick  
Vice Chair, Human Services Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
487 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 716 – Access to Shared Services

Dear

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) respectfully write to express support for House File 716. The intent of this bill is remove certain barriers for Minnesotans with disabilities to their ability to choose to lives in their own homes. It also seeks to address some of the workforce shortage barriers to living in homes of their own.

LSAP and MDLC are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, representing all of Legal Aid's low-income clients and clients with disabilities. LSAP provides legislative advocacy and MDLC is the federally-designated "Protection and Advocacy" Agency, representing and advocating for Minnesotans with disabilities.

HF 716 seeks to achieve those goals by expanding access to shared services so people who have disabilities who need similar services can, if workable for all involved, choose to share services and service providers. This concept is already permitted under Consumer-Directed Community Supports (CDCS).

HF 716 also makes changes to the Individualized Home Supports with Training (IHST) service, allowing the provider to be compensated for services for individuals with their consent, but not necessarily with their direct contact, to ensure continuity of other necessary services. Further, and importantly, it allows individuals temporarily travelling out of state to be supported by their IHST staff while doing so.

Thank you for allowing Legal Aid to share its support of HF 716.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood  
Supervising Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenn Purrington".

Jenn Purrington  
Legal Director  
Minnesota Disability Law Center

cc: The Honorable Leigh Finke, author, HF 716