March 25, 2024

The Honorable Mohamud Noor
Chair, Human Services Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Anne Neu Brindley
Republican Lead, Human Services Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
251 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Legal Aid Letter of Support for HF 3419 – Changes to Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD)

Dear Chair Noor, Lead Neu Brindley, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid and the Disability Law Center write to express support for HF 3419. This bill would allow more Minnesotans with disabilities to work, and continue working, without being forced to make immediate choices between paying their premiums or paying for other basic necessities like food and rent.

For MA-EPD recipients, premiums create an unnecessary barrier and hardship. Minnesotans with disabilities are charged premiums for a crucial program which is needed to receive the home and community-based services required to get to work and live independently. Even if a person with disabilities receives health care benefits through their employer, home and community-based waiver services are not covered by the majority of these plans. This means a person with disabilities often has to pay two premiums—for health insurance through their employer and another for MA-EPD. Last session, there was bipartisan agreement that MA-EPD premiums should be eliminated. But for a last-minute error, they would have been. This bill would assist Minnesotans struggling to make ends meet to continue to receive vital home and community-based services even if they are struggling financially.

Thank you for allowing Legal Aid to share its views on this proposal. We urge passage of HF 3419.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Purrington
Legal Director/Deputy Director
Minnesota Disability Law Center

Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project

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