



March 3, 2024

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

**Re: Legal Aid Letter of Support for HF 4158--Changes to Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD)**

Dear Chair Fischer, Lead Kiel, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project and the Minnesota Disability Law Center write in support of HF 4158 to change the MA-EPD recertification period from semi-annual to annual.

The MA-EPD recertification process is time consuming for participants and counties alike. Moving to annual renewals would bring the MA-EPD renewal process in line with other Medical Assistance programs and MinnesotaCare.

Working Minnesotans with disabilities rely on MA-EPD to receive home- and community-based services needed to get to work and live independently. Changing the renewal period to once a year will allow participants to be more secure in their financial planning and alleviate the anxiety that comes with completing these time- and paper-intensive renewals twice a year for this important program.

Thank you for allowing Legal Aid to share its views on this proposal. We urge passage of HF 4158.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Purrington', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Purrington  
Legal Director/Deputy Director  
Minnesota Disability Law Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Smart', written in a cursive style.

Ellen Smart  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project

This document has been formatted for accessibility. Please call Ellen Smart at 612/746-3761 if you need this document in an alternative format.

March 04, 2024

Re: The Arc Minnesota Letter of Support, HF 4158



Chair Fischer and Human Services Policy Committee Members,

The Arc Minnesota strongly supports HF 4158 authored by Rep. Hicks, which makes long overdue changes to the Medical Assistance for Employed People with Disabilities (MA-EPD) program.

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

For over 20 years now, MA-EPD has provided an opportunity for Minnesotans with disabilities to work while accessing critical services and supports through MA. While this program was created to boost employment for people with disabilities, the administrative burdens are a significant barrier to employment and keep people with disabilities living in poverty.

Overly burdensome administrative processes place unnecessary stress on individuals accessing the program and act as a disincentive to work, creating barriers to economic stability and deepening reliance on government programs and services.

By shifting from a 6-month to a 12-month recertification period and granting additional time for people to submit renewal paperwork as outlined in the bill, HF 4158 would directly benefit working Minnesotans with disabilities.

The Arc Minnesota is grateful to Representative Hicks for introducing this bill and graciously ask for your support. The passage of HF 4158 would represent significant progress in improving the MA-EPD program and signal your commitment to supporting people with disabilities who can and want to work – contributing to Minnesota's workforce and economy.

Sincerely,

Alicia Munson

Chief Program Officer

Tina Rucci

Public Policy Director

*The Arc Minnesota*