



March 17, 2022

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) is a broad-based coalition of advocacy and provider organizations, as well as individual members, working to change public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities through building awareness, providing education, and engaging in the community.

We write to express our support of HF3919, a proposal to increase access to Life Sharing, and we wish to thank Representative Moller for authoring this important legislation.

One of MNCCD's policy principles is supporting individual empowerment and choice. Life Sharing increases options for people to choose where and with whom they want to live while individualizing supports in a nurturing home environment. It is community-based and supports people in increasing social roles and building connection for inclusion. These benefits are experienced by both the person accessing waiver services as well as the family or individual opening their home.

This proposal also aligns with MNCCD's principle to improve and protect essential supports and services. Convening stakeholders to collaboratively develop recommendations for a statewide service and reimbursement model will address and remove existing barriers to this person-centered, community-based and culturally responsive support for Minnesotans with disabilities.

This is especially critical as we face significant workforce challenges that are presenting instability in Minnesota's caregiving field and unfortunately directing people to move to less independent settings. Life Sharing is an innovative solution that only positively addresses workforce shortages, utilizes existing housing options, and supports individual empowerment and choice.

Thank you for your support of HF3919.

Sincerely,

Melissa Haley
Public Policy Co-Chair

Maren Hulden
Public Policy Co-Chair