

Subject: Parent Support for HF 3800

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anisa Hagi-Mohamed and I live in Bloomington, Minnesota. I am the mother of two children with disabilities, one of whom has higher support needs and receives a disability waiver. I am also the Board Chair of Maangaar Voices, a community organization that supports immigrant and East African families navigating autism and developmental disability systems.

I am writing in support of HF 3800.

For families like mine, waiver services are not abstract policy. They shape what daily life looks like in our homes. My daughter's waiver allows us to purchase services and supports that help her regulate sensory needs, enroll her in adaptive lessons, and access activities that support her safety and development. Some of these supports, like adaptive swimming lessons, are not simply recreational for our family but life saving skills.

The waiver also allows us to hire support staff who assist with activities of daily living, help keep my daughter safe, and support her engagement with the community. We have a support staff who has been with our family for two years now and has truly become like family to us. Because waiver budgets allow families to offer competitive wages, she has been able to stay in this work and continue supporting my daughter with consistency and care. That kind of stability is incredibly important for children with higher support needs.

Like many parents, I have also had to restructure my work and income to care for my child. Much of my week revolves around therapies, medical appointments, and coordinating support. Waiver services make it possible for families like mine to sustain that reality.

It is also important to recognize that supporting children with disabilities is not something families do alone. There is an entire village around my child: speech therapists, occupational therapists, EIDBI providers, special education staff, support workers, music therapists, swim instructors, and many others. These professionals are able to do their work because systems like Medical Assistance and disability waivers make these services accessible. These supports not only help our children thrive, they also support Minnesota's workforce and local economy.

Because of this, many families are understandably concerned about the potential impacts of Waiver Reimagine Phase II. These budgets represent the staffing, routines, and supports that our children depend on every day.

HF 3800 provides an important safeguard by ensuring that waiver budgets cannot be reduced by more than ten percent unless there is clear documentation that a person's needs have decreased. For families like mine, this kind of stability is critical as the state transitions to a new system.

I also appreciate that the bill recognizes the importance of cost of living adjustments. Families across Minnesota are already struggling to recruit and retain support staff as wages and living costs increase. If budgets do not keep pace with those realities, the impact will be felt immediately in the homes of families who rely on these supports.

Through my work with Maangaar Voices, I regularly hear from parents across Minnesota who are doing everything they can to support their children at home while navigating a very complex system. HF 3800 helps ensure that system changes do not unintentionally destabilize the fragile support systems families have worked so hard to build.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this important protection for Minnesotans with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

Anisa Hagi-Mohamed
Parent and Disability Advocate
Board Chair, Maangaar Voices
Bloomington, Minnesota

March 12, 2026

The Arc Minnesota
641 Fairview Ave, Ste 195
St Paul, MN 55104



Dear Co-Chair Noor, Co-Chair Schomacker and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Arc Minnesota, I am writing to express our support for HF3800 establishing a limit on reductions to individual authorized budgets as part of Waiver Reimagine Phase II.

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit organization that promotes and protects the human rights of people who have IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of inclusion and participation in their communities. We believe people who have disabilities are inherently strong, powerful, capable, and resilient. The lived experience of people with disabilities guides our policy priorities.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to live independently in their own homes and communities. As the state implements the next phase of waiver redesign, it is essential that individuals are not disproportionately impacted by budget changes that could threaten their right to live in the community.

This legislation provides an important safeguard by ensuring that individual authorized budgets cannot be reduced by more than ten percent unless a person's assessed needs decrease. This protection will help prevent sudden and significant reductions in services that could disrupt people's lives, threaten their independence, and potentially force individuals into more restrictive and costly settings.

The Arc Minnesota strongly supports policies that promote independence, choice, and community inclusion. HF3800 helps ensure that Waiver Reimagine Phase II is implemented in a way that protects people with disabilities and preserves their ability to live in the setting of their choice.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Tina Rucci
Public Policy Director

Chair Noor, Chair Schomacker, and Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee:

We are writing to urge your support for **HF3800**, which would limit Waiver Reimagine Phase II budget reductions to no more than 10% and require a cost-of-living adjustment in the individualized budget methodology.

Our son, **JJ Neugent**, is 29 years old and has **Down syndrome, autism, apraxia (non-verbal), dysphasia, a seizure disorder, sleep apnea, and severe reflux**. He has undergone major surgeries, including open-heart, spinal, and hip surgeries. He requires **thickened liquids to prevent aspiration, constant monitoring while eating, and trained staff who understand his individualized communication system**. He also has a history of significant trauma, PTSD, aggression, and elopement, all of which require experienced, consistent support.

Waiver Reimagined Concerns

JJ has been able to live safely and successfully in the community only because of the **own-home model of care** we built around him. We purchased and modified a home to meet his needs, and the **IHS with Training** model has been the first and only approach that has provided the structure, staffing, and predictability he needs to remain stable. With trained, consistent staff, JJ has made real progress in communication, independence, and emotional regulation.

But JJ's needs do not shrink because of a formula or a cap. He requires **24/7 oversight** and currently needs **16 hours per day of IHS with Training** to remain safe in his home and community. A major budget reduction would not eliminate his medical and behavioral risks. It would simply make it impossible to meet them safely. That could force him out of his home and into a more restrictive setting; increasing the opportunity for dangerous elopement, would put him at an increased risk for aspiration leading to pneumonia, and would escalate dormant aggressive behaviors that would be more costly for the state to manage.

We are not asking for new or expanded services. We are asking the state to preserve the supports that have already been assessed and approved, so JJ can continue living safely in the community rather than being pushed toward crisis care or congregate placement. HF3800 is an important safeguard against that harm.

Please support HF3800 and help ensure that Waiver Reimagine does not force Minnesotans with complex disabilities out of their homes and into more restrictive settings against their wishes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris and Leslie Neugent
2110 Portico Green
Neugent@me.com
612-860-1704

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage
658 Cedar Street, Suite G57
St. Paul, MN 55155
cmah@state.mn.us | 651-757-1750

March 9, 2026

Co-Chair: Rep. Mohamud Noor 60B
Co-Chair: Rep. Joe Schomacker 21A
Co-Vice Chair: Rep. Heather Keeler 04A
Co-Vice Chair: Rep. Dawn Gillman 17A;
and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of HF 3800 -Waiver Reimagine Phase II

Chair and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee, Minnesota
Legislature

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage is writing to express strong support for **HF 3800**, which establishes an individual authorized budget reduction limit and requires a cost-of-living adjustment within the Waiver Reimagine Phase II methodology. This legislation is essential to protecting Minnesotans who rely on disability waiver services, particularly African Heritage individuals and families who are disproportionately affected by service gaps, economic instability, and inequitable access to long-term supports.

Impact on African Heritage Communities

African Heritage communities across Minnesota face longstanding disparities in health, disability services, and economic stability. Families often navigate complex systems without culturally responsive support, and many rely on waiver services to maintain independence, employment, and community connection. When waiver budgets are reduced without safeguards, the consequences fall hardest on those already facing systemic barriers.

HF 3800 directly addresses these inequities by ensuring that individuals do not experience sudden or disproportionate reductions in their authorized budgets. This protection is especially important for African Heritage families who frequently serve as caregivers within multigenerational households and who already shoulder significant financial and emotional burdens.

Effects of Current Gaps in the System

Without the protections outlined in HF 3800, African Heritage families often experience:

- **Loss of essential services**, including personal care, employment support, and respite care.

- **Economic strain**, as caregivers reduce work hours or leave jobs entirely to fill service gaps.
- **Housing instability**, when reduced budgets make it difficult to maintain independent living arrangements.
- **Increased involvement with crisis systems**, including emergency rooms, shelters, or child protection systems, where African Heritage families are already overrepresented.
- **Greater pressure on community organizations**, which are trusted but chronically underfunded and unable to absorb the impact of state-level budget reductions.

These outcomes deepen existing disparities and create long-term economic harm for families and communities.

How HF 3800 Would Improve Outcomes

HF 3800 offers meaningful solutions that would strengthen stability and equity across the state:

- **Budget reduction limits** protect families from sudden service cuts that can destabilize employment, housing, and caregiving arrangements.
- **Cost-of-living adjustments** ensure that waiver budgets keep pace with rising costs, preventing erosion of essential supports.
- **Greater continuity of care** allows individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes and communities, reducing reliance on costly crisis systems.
- **Stronger support for culturally grounded providers**, who play a critical role in serving African Heritage families but struggle when reimbursement rates fail to reflect real economic conditions.

If HF 3800 had been in place earlier, many African Heritage families would have avoided unnecessary hardship, financial instability, and service disruptions. This bill represents a practical and equitable step toward strengthening Minnesota's disability services system.

Conclusion

HF 3800 is more than a technical adjustment; it is a commitment to fairness, stability, and dignity for individuals and families who depend on waiver services. By limiting harmful budget reductions and requiring cost-of-living adjustments, this legislation helps ensure that African Heritage communities across Minnesota receive the consistent, culturally responsive support they deserve.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your full support for HF 3800.

Sincerely,

Linda Sloan | Executive Director
Lolita Davis Carter | Legislative & Policy Director
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the State of Minnesota's political, social, and economic resources, policies, and procedures. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;*
- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules, and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;*
- *Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;*
- *Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule, or order; and*
- *Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.*



Chairs Noor and Schomaker and Members of the House Human Services Finance & Policy Committee,

Disability Voice Advocates encourage you to support HF3800.

Waiver Reimagine has many flaws and with implementation set for January 1, 2027, it is imperative that we protect against unintended consequences. With budget inequities between those living in their own homes and those living in corporate care, it is highly likely that waiver recipients will be forced from living where they choose and moved to congregate care.

HF3800 will limit Waiver Reimagine budget cuts to a maximum of 10%. This will help mitigate the harm caused by the budget inequities and hopefully allow waiver recipients to maintain their living setting and most of their services.

Thank you for supporting HF3800.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Sundberg, Executive Director
Elder Voice Advocates/Disability Voice Advocates
kris@eldervoicefamilyadvocates.org
952-239-6394

March 7, 2026

To: Human Services Committee

Co-Chairs: Rep. Mohamud Noor and Rep. Joe Schomaker

Re: HF 3800

Dear Human Services Committee Members,

In 2018, Senator John Hoffman said, “take that message forward,” urging me to share my concerns about Waiver Reimagine when I saw the train wreck coming—all in the name of “helping” people like my daughter, Jill.

Please support HF 3800.

Jill, 28, has Rett syndrome and needs full assistance with every aspect of daily living. She is non-verbal and medically fragile, which makes finding competent staff and meaningful community activities challenging.

With the self-directed component of her waiver, Jill can access the community daily. We hire and manage her skilled staff, keeping her out of costly, ineffective group homes and allowing her a life of choice and inclusion.

Waiver Reimagine Impact To Jill:

A 68% budget cut is slated

Current staff replaced by costly agency staff

Loss of self-direction under CDCS

As a Waiver Reimagine Committee member, I saw stakeholder input ignored by DHS during my 3 year term! Their proposed plan fails to address the consequences. The current DHS plan will destroy the supports that keep Jill thriving.

Chuck and Lisa Evert

| Faribault, MN | 507-330-3315

Chair Noor and Chair Schomaker and members of the House Human Services Finance & Policy Committee,

I am writing today to ask for your **support of HF3800** – a bill that mitigates the harm done by Waiver Reimagine budget reductions. This bill would limit the budget reduction under Waiver Reimagine to a maximum of 10% and is a critical protection to keep waiver recipients living in the community and in the setting of their choice.

The budget methodology under Waiver Reimagine is flawed as it bases individual budgets on living setting rather than on recipient needs – giving budgets 50% higher to those living in congregate care versus those living in their own or family homes!

Alarmingly, my daughter, Elizabeth Peterson, is subject to having her budget under Waiver Reimagine reduced by as much as 50%. Currently Elizabeth is able to live in her own home setting in Minnetonka now because she receives support from waiver funding. Moving into a group home would be devastating to her and would not be a choice that allows her to receive the services she requires. How can pushing adults with disabilities into group homes in order to get the services they need possibly be a solution based on what is best for the individuals?!

Please pass this bill to help ensure Waiver Reimagine does not force people from their homes and into institutional settings against their wishes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jane Steinhagen - Mother and legal guardian of Elizabeth Peterson

Testimony on HF3800 – CDCS under the CAC Waiver

Co-Chairs Noor and Schomaker and members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Kit Chambers, and I am the single mother of a four-year-old child with complex medical needs. My son, Nash, was hospitalized for the first 476 days of his life. For those fifteen months, he relied on an entire hospital system—and when we were discharged, that system became me.

Nash and I rely on the Community Alternative Care (CAC) waiver and the Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) option to keep him safely at home instead of in a hospital. The CAC waiver is designed for people who would otherwise need hospital-level care, and it funds home and community-based services for chronically ill children and adults in Minnesota. Through CDCS, I am able to self-direct my child's care, choose the services that actually meet his needs, and hire and schedule workers—often trusted family and community members—who understand his medical fragility. Because of CDCS, my son is able to thrive and enjoy therapies not covered by insurance, like music and massage, and with these in-home services he's able to stay healthy and grow.

Because my child needs frequent skilled intervention, monitoring, and specialized support to stay stable, a traditional, one-size-fits-all service model does not work for us. The flexibility of CDCS within the CAC waiver allows us to design a plan that covers extended nursing—which is now being threatened by an arbitrary enforcement of a 120-day visit cap in services. We can structure PCA support to supplement nursing hours, and we can secure specialized equipment, supplies, and therapies that prevent complications and hospitalizations. Every part of our CDCS budget is tied directly to keeping my child breathing, fed, safe, and out of crisis. For a family like mine, this is not “extra”; it is essential.

HF3800, which places a limit on how much an individual's authorized CDCS budget can be reduced during Waiver Reimagine implementation, is about stability and safety for families like ours. Sudden or large cuts to a medically fragile child's CDCS budget do not just reduce services on paper; they immediately translate into fewer nursing hours, fewer PCAs, less respite, and less ability to respond when something goes wrong. That increases the risk of emergency room visits, hospital stays, and even institutional care, which are not only traumatic for children and families, but also far more expensive for the state. We are already towing the poverty line, and these cuts would put us on a razor's edge while unfairly shifting costs onto the people of Minnesota.

As a single parent, I am already juggling the roles of nurse, care coordinator, advocate, and breadwinner. Without a stable CDCS budget under the CAC waiver, I cannot safely maintain employment, care for my child, and manage his complex medical needs. The flexibility and control that CDCS provides—being able to hire people we trust, schedule care around my child’s condition, and purchase the specific supports he needs—are what make it possible for him to live at home in our community. A protected floor on budget reductions, as HF3800 proposes, recognizes that there is a point below which cuts are not just inconvenient; they are dangerous.

I am asking you today to pass HF3800 to ensure that families using CDCS under the CAC waiver are not pushed into crisis by abrupt and deep budget cuts during Waiver Reimagine. Please see my child not as a cost line, but as a four-year-old Minnesotan who loves music, zooming around in his gait trainer, going to school with his friends, reading book after book, and smiling. He spent the first year and a half of his life in the hospital—a ten-million-dollar miracle. We are grateful to put that in the rearview mirror and to have him safely at home, at a fraction of the cost, only because these services are in place and stable. With HF3800, you can help guarantee that medically complex children and their single parents are not left to face impossible choices between safety, health, and basic survival.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Minnesota’s most medically fragile children and the families who care for them.

March 12, 2026
Human Services Committee
Co-Chairs: Rep. Mohamud Noor and Rep. Joe Schomaker
Room 123, Capitol Building
Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: Support for HF 3800

Dear Co-Chairs Noor and Schomaker and Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Lauren Thompson. I am a CADI waiver recipient and disability rights advocate, and I am writing in support of HF 3800. I am deeply concerned about the potential threats posed by Waiver Reimagine. Specifically, inequitable budget caps, service cuts, and service restructuring could unnecessarily force more people with disabilities into more restrictive and more expensive institutionalized settings.

I have spent much of my adult life in various institutionalized settings. There has been an industry-wide worker shortage for as long as I can remember. I have often had to rely on a rotating staff of workers who are trying to manage the complex, individual care needs of many clients at once. To say it has been hard at times is an understatement. There have been times when my care and safety were compromised. I am in a safer place now, but every fluctuation in services or policy has the potential to put me, and others like me, at risk.

The disability services system is currently under significant scrutiny as fraud investigations move forward. Some provider payments and new provider approvals have been paused. In this environment of uncertainty, it is especially important that any major structural reforms be implemented carefully and with strong protection for recipients.

HF 3800 provides important safeguards that would help maintain stability during the transition to Waiver Reimagine Phase II. In particular, the bill:

- Requires a cost-of-living adjustment within the Waiver Reimagine Phase II methodology
- Limits reductions in an individual's authorized waiver budget to no more than ten percent unless a documented decrease in need is identified through the MnCHOICES assessment process
- Reinforces the state's commitment to authentically supporting the independence of people with disabilities

These provisions would help ensure that system changes do not destabilize the services many Minnesotans with disabilities depend on for their health, safety, and independence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lauren Thompson

Lmt878@yahoo.com

I am attaching a letter I sent to my Representative (Elliot Engen) in Feb 2026 - which outlines my concerns with the "Waiver Reimagined" currently being steamrolled through DHS. Since that time, it is my understanding HF3800 and SF3757 have been introduced as a countermeasure. I am in full support of HF3800 and any other legislative initiatives which temper this train wreck of a process. Below are my concerns - which introduce you to the damage already underway and the consequences of implementation of "Waiver Reimagined" as it exists today.

Representative Elliot Engen
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
3 February 2026

Representative Engen:

As a new legislative session begins - I am writing as a constituent (on behalf of my three young adult daughters) and a concerned parent regarding the track the Waiver Reimagined Project at DHS has taken. In its present form (at least what is publicly available) - it will harm individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.

The legislature authorized (in 2019) to make system level improvements to the waiver system. There is a long history in the middle - but if we look at where we are at today - the implementation is coming Jan 2027 - and to those of us lacking solid information, it looks uncertain, scary and confusing for individuals and families caring with someone with a disability. Facts I have been able to gather:

- 1.) Four waivers have been combined into two; and the remaining two are not medically (needs of individual) based - but are based on 'where resident lives' - either with family (Individual Support Waiver) or in a residential (Residential Support Waiver) setting (aka group home). The current proposal for reimbursement for the residential support waivers are substantially higher than Individual / Home support - The impact will be drive individuals into institutional / group home settings versus receiving care at home.
- 2.) Support ranges were determined by HSRI - at a cost to taxpayers in excess \$1.2M. To date (less than 1 year 'til implementation) all that is floating around DHS currently is a table from 2021 - which shows pathetically small ranges; with a 'promise' they will be updated. How much, when, no one knows. The impact is no one actually knows what next year will look like - metaphorically, we are flying in the clouds with no direction.
- 3.) Rather than budgets being based on assessed needs - they will have to fit into one of these ranges; in most cases - it appears like there will be significantly less funding available for daily care activities, community engagement, transportation, job coaching, day services - especially for those who live at home. The waiver currently funds these essential supports for my adult children. Impact - we will have to have fewer services; less community choices, more isolation and reduced opportunity to be present in our communities.
- 4.) Waivers require FMS (Financial Management Services) - these costs keep increasing and are significant - impact: further reducing remaining funds for services. If budgets drop, a greater percentage goes to the FMS - rather than to service providers.
- 5.) There is currently a community task force (commissioned by the legislature) - I have attended the public meetings and their report is due after the legislative session ends (input to process = zero) - and my observation - DHS is forging ahead to an early 2027 implementation NO MATTER WHAT.

Why this matters?

As a parent of three young adults with Down Syndrome - waiver services are my daughters lifelines to: community involvement, assistance with daily living tasks, access to job training/coaching, day support services and transportation. Any reductions in their funding will have an IMMEDIATE and DIRECT impact on the quality of their life.

What to do?

The decision making process has been largely hidden from public view. DHS leadership has made significant decisions which impact my life and my family life - and may be counter to the Olmstead decision, the Jensen decision and a return us to a place where institutionalization is the state sanctioned way to treat individuals with disabilities. That reach without understanding consequences is not acceptable. For seven years this has been pitched as a 'good thing' - more choice, more flexibility - but it is anything but. People will suffer, we will go backwards and my children will be impacted. I expect no harm to them. I am not able to influence this - other than through you. If I had my way, this process would be stopped; if it is not, we will all stand by and watch a train wreck of massive proportion impact our families, friends and neighbors. It is that simple.

Respectfully,

Lee Shervheim

03.09.2026

Chairs and Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

Please support HF3800.

I have been following Waiver Reimagine for the past three years and am more concerned than ever about the damage this poorly designed initiative will cause waiver recipients living in their own homes. Waiver Reimagine will institute individual budgets that incentivize institutional care. This is wrong – violating the Olmstead Promise and ADA Integration Mandate.

My daughter, Amanda, receives waived services under a traditional DD waiver.



The numbers:

- Current Waiver budget: \$100,000
- Budget under Waiver Reimagine: \$50,000 (a 50% budget cut)

She will be forced to move out of her apartment, which she dearly loves, and into a group home.

- BUT, if HF3800 passes, her budget cut would be capped at 10%, or \$10,000. Her budget would then be \$90,000/year.

She would have to cut some services, but could likely remain in her apartment.

Please pass this common-sense legislation to ensure waiver recipients who live in their own homes have sufficient budget to maintain their living setting.

Thank you for supporting HF3800.

Lisa Vala
4615 Juneau Ln N
Plymouth MN 55446

Disability Voice Advocates – Volunteer

Lisa_v3@yahoo.com

612.743.7348

March 11, 2026

Dear Chair Schomacker, Chair Noor, and Committee Members,

My name is Julie McDonell and I live in Bloomington with my husband and two children. I am writing on behalf of my 8 year-old daughter, Macy, as well as other families of medically complex people with disabilities. **I am urging you to support the budget protection provisions included in HF 3800, specifically the 10% cap on reductions during the Waiver Reimagine Phase II transition, and the requirement to include cost-of-living adjustments in individual waiver budgets.**

Macy has a rare neurodevelopmental disorder. She has profound physical and intellectual disabilities and is nonspeaking. Macy is also medically complex, has multiple medical diagnoses, and at times her condition can change within seconds. She receives home care nursing and has regular medical and therapy appointments. She will always require 24 hour care. Macy also loves music, dancing, her family, and her caregivers. Her laugh is contagious and her smile will melt your heart. Our family loves Macy exactly as she is, and we want her to continue to live at home and be cared for by us, and by caregivers who are genuinely concerned about her well-being, happiness, and growth. Waiver Reimagine, if implemented as originally written, would decrease her budget so she could no longer have her needs met. This would force us to place Macy into a congregate care facility, which is really just another name for **institutionalized care**. Macy's budget in a congregate care facility would be several times the budget for keeping her at home, living with people who love and care about her. This concept is reprehensible, unethical, and it directly violates the Olmstead Plan. Additionally, it would cost taxpayers significantly more than what Macy receives on her CAC waiver, living at home with her family, where we all **choose** for her to live.

For Minnesotans who rely on HCBS waivers to live independently in their own homes — rather than in institutional or group settings — their waiver budget is **not discretionary funding**. It is literally what makes daily life possible, paying for direct support professionals, personal care, equipment, modifications, transportation, therapies, employment supports, and basic safety.

The 10% cap during implementation provides essential stability during a time of structural change. It ensures that individuals are not harmed simply because the methodology changes — unless their actual needs have decreased. Equally important is the inclusion of a cost-of-living adjustment. Waiver recipients already face workforce shortages and rising wages for direct support professionals. If individual budgets do not keep pace with real market costs, families are forced to reduce support or go without care. Protecting waiver budgets ensures safety and protects independence, dignity, and long-term fiscal responsibility.

I respectfully urge you to support and preserve these budget protection provisions included in HF 3800.

Thank you for your consideration and support of people with disabilities,

Sincerely,

Julie (& Macy) McDonell
j_wennerstrom@hotmail.com
952-215-7550



To be shared on: on Thursday 3/12/26

Chair Schomacker (*or Chair Noor*) and
Representatives,

My name is Michelle Anderson and my family are constituents of district (64B). I am speaking today in support of **HF3800**. **I am asking this committee to support this bill.**

My son Samuel is 14 and has had a CDCS budget through the DD waiver since 2020. Each year there has been more red tape and hoops that we have had to jump through to continue to get him the support and services he needs through his CDCS budget. The first year that he was assessed under the MNChoice 2.0, his budget was significantly cut. The MnChoices model is not reliable and is on a trajectory that will force individuals with disabilities into institutions, in defiance of the **Home and Community Based Standards (HCBS)** and the **Olmstead** ruling.

In the disability community right now there is a sense that the most vulnerable will be denied the care and accommodations that they need in an unfocused effort to prove that the state of MN is not tolerating fraud. I don't want to see fraud hurting our state

either. It feels like an additional stigma and burden that has been added to those who have a family member with a disability. It's upsetting to see individuals and families who have been doing their best to follow all of the rules, treated with suspicion and disregard, because of things that happened with *providers* that serve (or purport to serve) people with disabilities. It's horrible to hear stories of people who won't get the in-home medical care that they need to survive, or who have become homeless because of their services being held up or cut back.

The **HSRI** model which has already been implemented in other states, has been litigated at the federal level under **Olmstead** vs. L.C., the Americans with Disabilities Act (**ADA**), **1915(c)** wavier sufficiency requirements and the **HCBS** (Home Community Based Standards) Settings Rule compliance standards.

As a taxpayer in MN, as well as a mother with a child who has a CDCS budget, I strongly question why we are moving forward with a model that is already being litigated and shown to be insufficient?

Implementation of Waiver Reimagine will cause significant cuts to supports and services of disabled Minnesotans.

HF3800 is the last resort mitigation policy. It is not ideal but it acts as a hold for harmless protection.

I understand that the state of MN will be going into the red in future years to come. This bill, **HF3800**, gives families like mine the opportunity to adjust to the budget cuts, without it causing catastrophic harm. We ask that the cuts not be more than 10% to allow Responsible Parties like myself to adjust; to determine what expenses we are going to remove, or what additional *paid* work I will seek, in order to keep Sam's opportunities for community integration the same. I don't want to see any cuts, but I feel this is a good start to compromise for the road ahead with Waiver Reimagine.

I want to also see individuals and families at the table when the Waiver Reimagination Task Force meets. I know that many in the disability community feel that Waiver Reimagine was rushed through without our support and without accounting for the input that has been given by the disability community. I feel that MN DHS has chosen to operate independently from the legislature and has

ignored the bills and laws written by our elected officials.

I thank Representative Hicks for authoring this bill and being a strong voice for families in the MN disability community.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of **HF3800**.

Michelle Anderson

(Samuel Anderson's mom)

(704) 287-4692

1285 Bayard Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55116

--

Michelle Anderson



March 11, 2026

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HF3800

Dear Chairs Schomacker and Noor and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD), we urge your support for HF3800 which would protect the rights of people with disabilities to live inside their communities..

MNCCD is a statewide coalition of over 40 disability advocacy organizations, disability service providers, and individual self-advocates. Our members work directly with Minnesotans whose daily functioning, safety, and community participation depend on access to appropriate communication supports.

As Minnesota moves into "Waiver Reimagine Phase II," we must ensure that changing the system doesn't inadvertently hurt the people who rely on it. For many people with disabilities the services their waivers provide enable them to live inside their community. Without them, it is almost impossible for people to get the amount of care and support they would need to choose to live outside of a congregate living facility or institution. This bill creates a "safety net" to keep Minnesotans with disabilities stable in their own homes during the implementation of Waiver Reimagine Phase II.

Why This Bill Matters: The "Olmstead" Promise

The landmark *Olmstead* Supreme Court decision gives people with disabilities the right to choose where they live. HF 3800 protects this right in three key ways:

- **No Sudden Budget Drops:** It prevents anyone's budget from being cut by more than **10%** unless their actual needs have decreased. A sudden, large cut can be the difference between living at home and being forced into a nursing home or group home. Budgets should be dictated by need, not location, and need to preserve the ability for people with disabilities to get adequate care in their chosen living situation.
- **Fair Baselines:** It uses a person's **most recent MnCHOICES assessment** as the starting point. This ensures that the new system is based on a person's real-life needs, not just a new computer formula.
- **Keeping Up with Inflation:** Costs for caregivers and transportation go up every year. By adding a **Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)**, this bill ensures that a person's budget doesn't lose its "buying power" over time. Without this, community living eventually becomes impossible.

Waiver Reimagine was designed to make the system simpler and fairer. However, "simpler" should not mean "less support."

HF 3800 ensures that if a person's disability stays the same, their support stays the same. It provides peace of mind to thousands of families who worry that a change in state policy might mean losing the help they need to get through the day. It is a human right to live where you like with who you like. One that people with disabilities should be denied. Extreme budget discrepancies mean people lose the ability to choose how to live their lives and can force people into institutions who do not want to be there— something the Olmstead case declares should be left in the past. Supporting HD3800 ensures that "Reimagining" our waivers leads to more independence for Minnesotans, not less.

Thank you for your time,

Danielle Indovino Cawley, Policy Co-Chair, Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities

Testimony in Support of HF 3800

Madam Hicks, Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nadine Monge, and I am the mother of a profoundly disabled son with severe autism and complex neurological and autoimmune complications that can cause sudden behavioral and psychiatric crises.

Much of his medical complexity has been pushed under the rug and has not been documented correctly in medical records. This has resulted in treatment plans that have not been successful and has left us fully reliant on Waiver services.

When families are discharged from hospitals unsafely, we are forced to depend entirely on resources that are often unavailable or take years to obtain.

What happens when those waiver services are diminished?

When services or funding are reduced, it does not just create inconvenience—it can create dangerous situations in the home and in the community. My son requires constant supervision and support, and without adequate services, families are often left with nowhere to turn.

The provision that limits reductions to waiver budgets during Waiver Reimagine Phase II is extremely important. If a person's documented needs remain the same or increase, their services should not be drastically reduced simply because the system is changing.

Children and adults with complex disabilities already face barriers to care, housing, and appropriate services. These protections help ensure they are not pushed further into crisis.

I respectfully ask you to support these protections so families like mine can continue to care for our loved ones safely and with dignity.

Please support HF 3800.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nadine Monge
nadinemonge@gmail.com
612-584-8360 (please do not publicize phone number)

My name is Penny Perryman, and I am the mother and caregiver of my 22-year-old son, Gage. I'm here today to share how disability waivers have directly impacted our family and why policies like HF3800, which would only allow budgets to be decreased by 10%, are so important for families like mine across Minnesota.

Minnesota's move towards Waiver Reimagine which seems in favor of more institutional models isn't just a policy change — it directly impacts real lives, including my son's.

My son has been on a CDCS waiver for 21 years. Because of this waiver, I have been able to support him as a paid parent caregiver, giving him the consistent, personalized support he needs to live an inclusive, community-based life.

With that support, Gage graduated high school, earned a web design certificate from Dakota County Technical College, and rebuilt the website for his nonprofit, Gage Gives Back. Today he works part-time in our small community — a place where people know him, support him, and where he continues to grow his independence. He is also building a public speaking career with the support of vocational rehabilitation.

Gage has spoken at several national conventions and has become an advocate not only for himself, but for others. He has lobbied and testified before both House and Senate committees in support of inclusive higher education. He completed the Partners in Policymaking program and has served on the Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Consortium Advisory Committee. He also completed the GTO Cadet Program with the City of Bloomington.

None of these opportunities happened by accident. They happened because community-based services gave him the stability and support needed to grow.

Gage lives with multiple disabilities including traumatic brain injury, cortical visual impairment, seizure disorder, anxiety, and behavioral challenges. Despite these challenges, he continues to work, advocate, and contribute to his community because he has the right supports in place.

Just as important, he remains deeply connected to family and community — where he works, socializes, and participates in everyday life like anyone else. That inclusion is not accidental; it is the result of intentional community-based services that honor dignity, growth, and independence.

Rolling back these waivers pushes families toward institutional models that isolate people instead of empowering them. It represents a step backward — not only morally and socially, but also against the spirit of the Olmstead decision, which affirms the right of people with disabilities to live and participate fully in their communities.

Keeping this waiver isn't about convenience — it's about preserving opportunity, independence, and quality of life.

My son's progress is proof of what's possible when community-based supports are protected. We should be expanding these pathways, not closing them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our story and for considering policies that protect the independence and dignity of Minnesotans with disabilities.

Penny Perryman

Hi

I am emailing to ask you to vote in favor of HF3800 so that waiver reimagine only cuts budgets by 10%. My daughter is severely disabled and is on the DD waiver. Having a cut larger than this would significantly affect her health and safety. I had to quit my job to stay home to care for all of her needs and get her to her numerous therapy's and medical appts. We cannot sustain cuts to the budget. Thank you

Sarah Erdman

March 10, 2026

To: Human Services Committee

Co-Chairs: Rep. Mohamud Noor and Rep. Joe Schomaker

Re: HF 3800

Dear Human Services Committee Members,

Please support HF 3800.

My daughter Sarah, 32, has Rett syndrome and needs full assistance with every aspect of daily living. She is non-verbal and medically complex, which makes finding competent staff and meaningful community activities challenging.

Up until two years ago she lived at home with her dad and I. We had been having a tough time finding quality care for her at home that was compounded during the Covid epidemic as we were fearful as to how she would do medically if she caught the virus. Once we felt comfortable with outside care it was impossible to find and hire qualified staff at the low wages being offered through her waiver.

In early 2024 an opportunity became available for her to move to a group home in Eden Prairie where she grew up. After careful consideration and much discernment, we took the leap and while we continue to work together to iron out kinks, it has been very good for her sense of independence and self-esteem. I am very concerned about large budget cuts to all care models and worry what will happen to her quality of life if the housing provider must cut back their already limited staffing. Will she be safe? Will she be able to get out into the community regularly? Will the housing provider be able to even keep the home open if their funding is slashed?

Waiver Reimagined, while sounding good, will cause great harm to my daughter and others who depend on waived services to live and thrive despite the many challenges their disabilities throw at them.

Susan Murakami

Eden Prairie, MN

612-616-2969

sgmurakami@gmail.com

Dear Chair Noor, Chair Schomaker, and Members of the House Human Services Finance & Policy Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support HF3800, which would limit Waiver Reimagine budget reductions to no more than 10%. This safeguard is critical to prevent people with disabilities from being pushed out of their homes and into more restrictive settings they did not choose. I am the mother and guardian of a 31-year-old autistic son with severe developmental delays. Under Waiver Reimagine, I have been told to expect a 50–75% reduction to his waiver budget. A cut of this magnitude would make it impossible for him to continue living safely in our family home, which is where he wants to live and where he receives the most stable and consistent support.

His current waiver budget funds the direct support, supervision, and daily-living assistance he needs for basic safety, personal care, and participation in the community. Without these supports, I would not be able to meet his needs at home, and he would be at real risk of being forced into a more restrictive, congregate setting against his wishes.

Supporting people with disabilities in their own homes not only respects their dignity and independence, it is also often significantly less costly to the state than congregate care placements.

The current budget methodology—providing far higher budgets to people in congregate care while drastically reducing support for those living in their own or family homes—creates a system that unintentionally discourages community living and undermines the very choice Minnesota has worked for decades to expand.

HF3800 provides a reasonable safeguard so that Waiver Reimagine reforms do not result in devastating and destabilizing cuts for people who rely on these supports to remain in their homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Stacie Zamora

Committee Members:

As a person with cerebral palsy who relies on a CADI waiver to live independently in the community, I urge you to support HF3800. This bill would cap any budget reductions from Waiver Reimagine at a maximum of 10%. Any reduction larger than this will affect services for me and others.

Tom Reed

Subject: Please Protect Budget Stability for Waiver Recipients in HF 3800

Dear Committee Members of the House Human Services Finance & Policy Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the budget protection provisions included in **HF 3800**, specifically the 10% cap on reductions during the Waiver Reimagine Phase II transition and the requirement to include cost-of-living adjustments in individual waiver budgets.

For Minnesotans who rely on HCBS waivers to live independently in their own homes — rather than in institutional or group settings — their waiver budget is not discretionary funding. It is what makes daily life possible. It pays for direct support professionals, personal care, transportation, therapies, employment supports, and basic safety.

For anyone who lives on a budget, drastic changes to a financial cost of living budget can cause people to have to make drastic cuts that sometimes mean life or death. My daughter requires one on one care and because I'm able to manage with help of PCA. Without PCA help, we would not be able to get out in the community to keep our mental health up. This enables her out of hospital to keep costs down for everyone.

Without guardrails, system redesigns can unintentionally destabilize the very people they are meant to serve. A sudden reduction in an individual's waiver budget can mean:

- Losing consistent staff
- Reduced hours of support
- Increased caregiver burnout
- Risk of hospitalization or institutional placement
- Loss of employment or community engagement

The 10% cap during implementation provides essential stability during a time of structural change. It ensures that individuals are not harmed simply because the methodology changes — unless their actual needs have decreased.

Equally important is the inclusion of a cost-of-living adjustment. Waiver recipients already face workforce shortages and rising wages for direct support professionals. If individual budgets do not keep pace with real market costs, families are forced to reduce support or go without care.

Community living is not only more inclusive — it is often more cost-effective than institutional care. Protecting waiver budgets protects independence, dignity, and long-term fiscal responsibility.

I respectfully urge you to support and preserve these budget protection provisions in **HF 3800**.

Stability during implementation is not optional for families — it is foundational.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Minnesotans with disabilities.

Sincerely,
Tram Nguyen

5345 Colfax Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419