



ATAM – The Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota

March 28, 2023

RE: Support HF 2847

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

ATAM is a statewide association of autism treatment providers that advocate for quality early intervention services that are accessible to all children who have autism spectrum disorder and their families.

We appreciate inclusion of rate increases for culturally responsive and other MA EIDBI (Early Intensive Developmental Behavioral Intervention) services included in the House Human Services budget bill, HF 2847. A permanent rate increase is an important piece of financial relief for autism providers to ensure that the 2,603 children and families who have lost access to EIDBI services might have a chance to get off the waiting list.

Investments in early intervention now will reduce long-term costs and ultimately bring back financial returns to the Medical Assistance EIDBI program, a ground-breaking autism treatment program that was initiated by Governor Dayton in 2013. EIDBI is designed to be culturally responsive, person centered, and provide the mentoring and support that disadvantaged workers need to enter this workforce.

Even as the providers struggle to repair their debts from the pandemic and resulting great resignation of qualified staff, the demand for autism services is still dramatically increasing. Every provider faces a waiting list of needy children that our workforce is too short to help. Our University of Minnesota Autism Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network now reports that there is one child with autism for every 36 eight-year-old Minnesotans (<https://addm.umn.edu>).

We appreciate you prioritizing timely early intervention and including the much needed EIDBI rate increases in HF 2847. We look forward to ongoing collaboration to grow provider capacity to serve more children and families.

Thank you Chair Noor and committee members for your support of children who have autism and their families.

Yours,

Eric V. Larsson, PhD, LP, BCBA-D, Minneapolis
President, Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota

The following are the sponsoring organizations of the Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota:

Accend Services	Caravel Autism Health	Rochester Center for Children	Minnesota Northland Association for
Autism Matters	Holland Center	Solutions Behavioral Healthcare	Behavior Analysis
Behavior Frontiers	Lovaas Institute Midwest	Professionals	Minnesota Behavioral Specialists
Behavioral Dimensions	Minnesota Autism Center	St. David's Child Development	