

Minnesota House of Representatives

Human Services Finance & Policy Committee

Co-Chairs: Noor & Schomacker

Re: HF4638 Compliance training for high-risk providers

Dear Mr. Chair and Members, Good morning. My name is Idil Abdull. I have a son with autism and have advocated for Minnesota's autism therapy benefit over a decade ago. As you know this benefit has now been added to the 14 high risk services. I also think CTSS should be added since autism therapy is provided under that benefit as well.

Additionally, all Medicaid services should have proactive compliance training by the Minnesota Department of Human Services for both families and agencies. Everyone should understand what the policy is, including rights and responsibilities.

Sadly, DHS and the legislators were not for compliance training when Somali autism families asked them years ago including last year when Chair of the Senate Human services added then yanked it out prematurely and wrongly.

I recommend the legislators ask DHS why they were against compliance training. Can we be proactive instead of reactive.

This bill does not include compliance training for the recipients, which I believe is just as important as the providers. Not sure why Rep. Noor would not add that. The legislators and DHS cannot keep giving driver licenses to 15-year-olds then get mad when they make mistakes. Training is and should be the first step to Medicaid funded programs, especially those that help vulnerable individuals with autism.

Finally, I ask the legislators to prevent and prohibit DHS from retaliating against not just employees, but also families. Yes, they are doing that and have done it, especially in the EIDBI division.

Thanks for your time,

Idil Abudll – Autism Mom & Retired Advocate