



April 8, 2022

To: Chair Schultz and Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

Re: House File 4579

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the House 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.

Thank you for your relentless commitment to people with disabilities and to addressing the pressing workforce crisis. We write to express our support of many provisions in HF 4579. We appreciate the many targeted investments that will improve and protect essential supports and services, as well as promote individual empowerment and choice for Minnesotans with disabilities living in their own homes and communities.

We are especially grateful for provisions that:

- Strengthen and stabilize the PCA/CFSS rate system by increasing the PCA rate implementation factor;
- Lift the 40 hour cap for parents and spouses to provide PCA services;
- Allow more shared services in Medicaid services;
- Make service termination appeal rights more equitable;
- Create a workforce incentive grant to help with workforce shortages;
- Establish a task force to assess accessibility barriers in disability services along with pilot projects aimed at reducing barriers;
- Convene a stakeholder group to create a Life Sharing service that increases options for people to choose where they want to live; and
- Allow PCAs to drive clients.

MNCCD is grateful for your partnership and commitment to improving the lives of people who have disabilities. This bill makes the most of the opportunity that we have as a state to address the workforce crises that the pandemic has only made worse these last few years. It ensures that people can choose where and with whom they want to live while building their best life in community.

Sincerely,

Melissa Haley
Public Policy Co-Chair

Maren Hulden
Public Policy Co-Chair