

House Human Services Finance & Policy Committee

Friday, March 5, 2021

HF 1159 Letter of Support

Chair Schultz and members,

On behalf of the co-signed organizations below, we write today in support of House File 1159. We are grateful to Rep. Acomb for championing this bill, and to Reps. Lippert and Klevorn for signing on as co-authors.

As you know, HF 1159 helps ensure that parents of children who have disabilities and spouses of adults who have disabilities are able to continue providing Personal Care Assistance (PCA) until the new Community First Services and Supports program is implemented.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesotans who have disabilities of all ages have faced challenging decisions about the individualized supports that help them live and thrive in their homes. Many have weighed the need for these supports against the risks of contracting coronavirus – a decision no one should ever have to make.

The temporary policy allowing parents and spouses to provide PCA services has helped alleviate some of the stressors of the pandemic – ensuring that family members can be paid to provide critical supports for their loved ones, while reducing the risk of viral transmission.

This expanded service authorization would continue to have a significant positive impact on countless Minnesotans statewide, and we ask for the committee's support.

Many thanks again to Chair Schultz for hearing this bill, and to Rep. Acomb and her co-authors for their hard work on HF 1159 this session.

*Autism Society of Minnesota*

*Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota*

*Family Voices of Minnesota*

*Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare*

*Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center*

*Multicultural Autism Action Network*

*The Arc Minnesota*

