

**April 04, 2024**

**Re: The Arc Minnesota, Letter of Support for HF 5228**

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Committee:

The Arc Minnesota writes in support the elimination of Medical Assistance Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) fees in HF 5228.

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

TEFRA is an option that allows children who otherwise would not be eligible to access Medical Assistance, residential services, and home and community-based services. Last session, TEFRA fees were eliminated for parents whose children are enrolled in straight MA or whose children are accessing home and community-based services. However, fees were not eliminated for parents whose children are living in children's residential facilities (CRFs), psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs), and Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICFs/DD).

For families who are at 275% of the federal poverty guidelines or higher, TEFRA fees can still push families into financial hardship. **For a family of four, 275% of FPG is \$85,800 per year. This is less than the cost of living in many Minnesota counties according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).** Furthermore, the fees push families under DEED's cost of living standard in most other counties. Although the number of families having to choose between paying their mortgage, going into debt, and paying their TEFRA fees has fallen thanks to last session's legislation, there are still families facing these choices. We request your support in passing HF 5228, which would resolve this issue.

The Arc Minnesota is grateful to Representative Virnig for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Tina Rucci

*Public Policy Director  
The Arc Minnesota*