



COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

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Honorable Chair Representative Mohamud Noor
House Human Services Finance Committee
RE: HF 3419 – Representative Hicks
March 26th, 2024

Chair Noor and members of the House Human Services Finance Committee,

The Minnesota Council on Disability strongly supports HF 3419 and we urge our legislators to do the same. HF 3419 is a crucial bill aimed at ensuring the continuity of healthcare services for Minnesotans enrolled in the Medical Assistance for Employed People with Disabilities (MA-EPD) program. This bill is critical for those striving to maintain employment and independence, as it guarantees uninterrupted access to the healthcare and disability services essential for living and working in their chosen communities.

The imposition of costly premiums on participants of the MA-EPD program represents a significant barrier, undermining the program's core mission to support Minnesotans with disabilities in their professional and entrepreneurial pursuits. These individuals already face considerable challenges within the workforce, including navigating accommodations and societal barriers. The financial strain of premiums further complicates their efforts to remain employed and financially secure.

Healthcare should be recognized as a fundamental human right, accessible to all, regardless of financial standing. It is disheartening to note that Minnesotans with disabilities often incur significantly higher healthcare costs than their peers, a disparity that premiums on the MA-EPD program only exacerbate. Such financial barriers to healthcare access are inconsistent with the principles of justice and equity that we, as a society, strive to uphold.

The financial burden of premiums can lead to detrimental health outcomes, forcing individuals to choose between healthcare and other basic needs. This can result in the neglect of preventive care, leading to more severe health issues and potentially increased overall healthcare costs.

By supporting HF 3419 and advocating for the elimination of premiums for the MA-EPD program, we are taking a stand for justice, equality, and the health and well-being of Minnesotans with disabilities.

I urge you to prioritize the health and independence of Minnesotans with disabilities by supporting HF 3419. Your action will affirm our collective commitment to a more inclusive, equitable, and just society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Turner".

Trevor Turner
Public Policy Director
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dively".

David Dively
Executive Director
david.dively@state.mn.us