



February 2, 2023

Chair Noor and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) is a broad coalition of over 30 advocacy and provider organizations along with individual members, working to change public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

We are writing in support of House File 240, the bill that will increase the household 40-hour cap for parents of minors and spouses on the Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) and Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) programs. We also want to thank Rep Reyer for authoring this bill.

The Covid-19 pandemic has amplified the already existing disability services workforce shortage crisis. The lack of access to consistent staff has placed people with disabilities and older adults at risk, jeopardizing their health and safety or forcing them to move to more costly or congregate care settings. Many parents or spouses have ended up bearing the brunt of this caregiver shortage, often jeopardizing their ability to maintain employment outside of the home.

Currently, there is a 40-hour limit on the number of hours a parent of a minor, or spouse, can be reimbursed for providing disability related care to their minor child or spouse. The 40-hour limit also applies to the household, which means that no more than 40-hours per week can be paid to one *or both* parents regardless of the number of parents in the household able to provide care or the number of children in the household receiving services. The limit also doesn't consider the number of hours the person receiving services has been assessed as being eligible for.

To help address the disability services workforce crisis, and support person-centered programs, we must maximize the current workers who are stepping up to do this valuable work – including parents and spouses.

This bill will cost little but have a big impact for families who are challenged to find staff and who have loved ones with compromised health conditions and who want to limit who comes into their home.

We ask for your support for HF 240.

Thank you,

Julia Page, MNCCD Policy Co-Chair

Trevor Turner, MNCCD Policy Co-Chair