



March 28, 2023

Re: HF 2847

Chair Noor and Members of the Human Services Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on HF 2847.

This Is Medicaid (TIM) is a diverse coalition of more than 50 nonpartisan organizations from across Minnesota partnering to protect and improve Medicaid. We seek measurable and positive outcomes for all Minnesotans – in particular, policies that improve the health outcomes of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities; address geographic, racial, and economic inequities; and promote health justice in Minnesota. TIM is committed to identifying opportunities to preserve and improve Minnesota’s Medicaid program, Medical Assistance, as we continue to grapple with the pandemic and the compounding health impacts it leaves in its wake.

Thank you for the inclusion of investments in home and community-based services including workforce incentive grants and rate increases for certain disability and elderly waivers services. We also appreciate provisions to study presumptive eligibility for long term services and supports and identify ways to expand access to Medicaid services for people with co-occurring behavioral health conditions and disabilities. These will support Minnesotans in accessing the Medicaid supports they need, when and where they need it.

As the committee continues to finalize budget recommendations, we respectfully request your consideration of the following proposals:

Reform of MA-EPD: We are disappointed that HF 1384 did not receive funding in HF 2847. For over 20 years, Minnesota has been taxing disability through unaffordable premiums for many to receive the support services they need to live in the community through the MA-EPD program. No adjustments of asset limitations have taken place since 2000 and people are limited to \$20,000 in liquid assets. Participants have difficulty saving for a home or new vehicle with inflation in those areas and more. We ask that you reconsider the decision not to fund HF 1384.

Invest in a Sustainable Direct Support Professional Workforce. Thank you for the inclusion of inflationary adjustments. However, we request consideration of implementing regular adjustments to the Competitive Workforce Factor (CWF) and moving up timing of inflationary adjustments as included in HF 999. This will help providers adapt and be responsive to market conditions and reduce the wage gap between direct support professionals and comparable occupations. However, we recommend fully funding

the CWF for all applicable DWRS services as well as utilizing the most recently available data for rate adjustments.

Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns at thisismedicaid@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Erin Sutton and Michelle SanCartier

This is Medicaid Co-Conveners

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