



January 31, 2023

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Service Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of legislation HF 568 for increased compensation for providers of Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs). As a director of a disability organization that provides a variety of services to individuals with disabilities, I see the critical need for ICFs among the other types of services offered. I fully support services in the most integrated setting, but I also acknowledge how ICFs are that setting for many individuals. I have worked with many individuals who have had the opportunity to move to other settings but prefer to stay in an ICF because they consider it their home.

Unfortunately, the rates at many ICFs have remained stagnant for some time while the needs for the individuals at these programs have increased. As the needs of individuals increase so does the need for more experience and more skilled staff to support them. Due to low reimbursement rates, we often must pay staff less to do some of the hardest work and at the end of the day, the individuals served suffer the most. The current trajectory of disability services looks very bleak, I know of many providers who continually debate how long they can continue provide services. As providers close, I am not sure where the individuals with disabilities will go, nursing homes, hospitals, back with aging parents?

I appreciate your consideration in approving this legislation, keeping in mind that it will benefit individuals with some of the most severe and complex disabilities.

Sincerely,

*Brent Krocak*

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