



Protecting Our Most Vulnerable: Allowing Qualified Professional to Perform Remote Visits for Individuals on PCA/CFSS Programs

HF 1512 (Rep Hanson) SF 1567 (Senator Bolden)

Covid 19 has impacted the disability community and people of color more severely than the general population. This is especially true for many diverse groups and especially for Native Americans. In an article published September 8, 2022, in the New York Times titled *Covid's death toll in Indigenous communities has no modern precedent*, states "from 2019 to 2021, [Native Americans] life expectancy fell from 71.8 years to 65.2. Covid was largely to blame."

Qualified Professionals (QPs) are required to provide in-person supervisory visits for all recipients of PCA services. During the Minnesota Peacetime Emergency, they were allowed to provide these visits remotely. When the Peacetime Emergency ended, they were required to go back to doing the visits in person. Some PCA recipients are hesitant to allow QPs into their home due to the health conditions of the PCA recipient or another family member. QPs may be doing several visits in a given day. People with disabilities and especially those from diverse populations are more prone to medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to contagious diseases like Covid, the flu or RSV.

This bill, uses a person-centered approach where it would be a decision by the PCA recipient or their responsible party to ask for the QP to provide the supervisory visit virtually based on the health condition of the PCA recipient or another member of their household. This would need approval by the service recipient's case manager, assessor, or doctor. Virtual visits would not be allowed for the start of care visits.

This bill helps protect our most vulnerable stay safe as we continue to navigate Covid and other contagious conditions.