

March 1, 2023

Re: Support for HF 1434



Dear Chair Fischer and House Human Services Policy Committee Members,

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

The Arc Minnesota strongly supports HF 1434 which takes aim at the fundamentally unacceptable practice of taxing disability. The bill would make transformational changes that would align our policies with Minnesota's values and directly benefit children with disabilities and their families.

HF 1434 would eliminate the parental fee for Medical Assistance (MA) state plan services and Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) waivers. Families of children with disabilities take on a significant cost just to ensure their children can access the supports and services they need. Many families have to make the difficult choice between paying the parental fees or accessing supports their child needs—which is no choice at all.

Policies that force children with disabilities and their families to live in poverty in order to access services and supports are dehumanizing. They imply that people with disabilities and their families do not deserve financial stability, let alone prosperity. Administrative processes that monitor this program take away money that could be spent on improvements we need elsewhere. These kind of policies create barriers to economic stability and put unnecessary burden on people accessing services. When children with disabilities and their families are barely allowed to survive, they are not allowed to thrive and flourish as valued and respected members of society.

The Arc Minnesota encourages the committee to pass HF 1434 to end the additional tax on Minnesota families. We will all benefit from their prosperity. Thank you, Rep. Edelson, for carrying a bill that would be life-changing to so many Minnesota families.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Director