

March 20, 2023

Human Services Finance Committee
MN House of Representatives

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for HF1434 to Eliminate Parental Fees

Dear Chair Noor and Committee Members,

HF 1434 is a bipartisan bill that eliminates the tax paid by working parents of children with disabilities called TEFRA. This tax is unique to Minnesota and requires working parents to pay an egregious fee to access medical assistance as a secondary insurance to afford the cost of caring for a child with disabilities.

My son started having seizures at 4 months old and as a result has been physical and cognitively disabled nearly since birth. We did not apply for medical assistance until my son was 10 years old due to the very high TEFRA fees. 3 years ago, we finally applied for medical assistance but the TEFRA fee has been consistently well over \$20,000 per year. Much of our budget is used to pay us as parents to care for our son but only to use those funds to ultimately pay our TEFRA fee. Thus preventing us from using these funds to help us with Personal Care Assistance costs or adapted equipment which my son needs.

Please help eliminate this unjust tax on families with disabled children. Thank you for serving our district and the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Rhea Nelson Rock
Lake Elmo, MN
Parent