



## **Protecting Our Most Vulnerable: Allowing Qualified Professional to Perform Remote Visits for Individuals on the PCA Program**

### **HF 1512 (Rep Hanson) SF 1567 (Senator Boldon)**

A Qualified professional, also known as a QP, is a person employed by a PCA agency who provides oversight of the service and the PCAs providing the service. Qualified Professionals are required to be nurses, social workers, mental health professionals or qualified designated coordinators. A QP performs the following duties:

- Training, supervision and evaluation of PCA workers
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of PCA services.
- These visits typically occur 2-4 times per year and are not “hands on” services.

During the Minnesota Peacetime Emergency, QPs 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 are often in several homes each day conducting visits, increasing the chances of spreading communicable diseases.
- People with disabilities, 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. The **decision is made by the PCA recipient** or their responsible party to ask for the QP to provide the supervisory visit virtually and requires approval by the service recipient’s primary health care provider. Virtual visits require use of both audio and video and would not be allowed for the start of care visits.

Covid 19 has impacted the disability community and people of color more severely than the general population. **This bill helps protect our most vulnerable, helping them stay safe as we continue to navigate Covid and other contagious conditions.**