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4/17/23

Rep. Hodan Hassan  
597 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Hassan,

I am writing to share concerns about HF2369. Rise is a provider of services to people who have disabilities throughout Minnesota. We provide supports to over 3,500 people each year, many of whom are seeking competitive, integrated employment. The biggest barrier to success for people with disabilities to achieving their employment goals can often be **lack of access to transportation**. Although this seems difficult to understand with the public transit options our community provides, it remains true that for people who have disabilities, public transit is not available at times/frequency they need it to get to their jobs and does not operate effectively for people who have disabilities in all communities.

We have collaborated with Lyft over the past few years to successfully assist people without access to public transit for their jobs, to find rides to work. These rides are critical to their success. HF2369 would make these rides unaffordable to the people we support and/or the funding sources that reimburse the rides. Without the rides, jobs would be lost. **Please take more time to study this issue before moving this bill forward this session.** If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. I have included an example of a successful Lyft collaboration below as well as quotes from our county partners.

Sincerely,

Lynn Noren  
President, CEO  
LNoren@rise.org  
763-300-6297

*This information was taken from an article in the December 2020 issue of the Rise Reporter.*

*Claire loves her job as a dietary aid in the cafeteria at an assisted living center. But when her shifts changed and varied from weekly, her transportation service couldn't accommodate her. Getting to work on time each day can be one of the biggest challenges someone who has a disability can face. Many must rely on public or private transportation which can be expensive and time-consuming.*

*"The partnership with Lyft and Rise has been a great addition to the menu of transportation services," said Kathy Palm, Anoka County's grants and contracts coordinator. "It has enabled individuals to obtain and maintain employment when other transportation options are not available."*

*Winna Bernard, a senior social worker at Washington County echoes Kathy's assessment and added this fun fact: "Using Lyft has reduced people's wait times by an average of 42 minutes a day which adds up to eight days a year! What would you do with eight extra days?!"*