



March 12, 2025

Rep. Joe Schomacker, Chair

House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee  
658 Cedar St.  
Centennial Office Building, Second Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support for House File 381 and House File 382**

Dear Chair Schomacker and members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

The Residential Providers Association of Minnesota (“RPAMN”) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade association that represents small, residential customized living and waivers service providers in Minnesota. The vast majority of RPAMN members are BIPOC-owned, culturally-specific service providers who might not otherwise be engaged in the policy development and legislative processes. We are writing you to express our support for bills being heard in this committee that pertain to various disability services.

RPAMN supports policy changes proposed in H.F. 381. We would specifically like to highlight our support for the establishment of a 30-business-day timeline for lead agencies to process service authorizations. While delays in service authorization processes are burdensome on providers, it is much more impactful on people accessing services. The constant churn and delays from administrative processes creates uncertainty and stress for the people we serve. This timeline will ensure a smoother, more predictable process for service recipients and providers alike.

RPAMN also supports investments in the home and community-based services system, specifically the Disability Waiver Rate System via an increase in the Competitive Workforce Factor in H.F. 382. While the Governor’s budget recommendation seeks to cap inflationary adjustments would exacerbate the direct support professional workforce shortage, H.F. 382 acknowledges the growing need for investment in this critical workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these proposals. Please let us know if we can be of service to this committee as you work on the next state budget.

Sincerely,

Zahnia Harut, President  
Residential Providers Association of Minnesota



March 12, 2025

To: Members of the Senate Human Services Committee  
RE: HF382 (Curran)

Dear Chair Schomacker and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's support of HF382**. It is critical to refine the Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS) by implementing regular adjustments to the Competitive Workforce Factor (CWF). This is an important, long-term solution to reduce the wage gap between direct support professionals (DSPs) and comparable occupations.

LSS is a provider of essential services across all 87 counties with more than 2,500 employees who serve one in 63 Minnesotans every year. This includes home and community-based services that are innovative and person-centered for people with disabilities. LSS' wide array of services are designed to meet the unique needs of individuals in a variety of settings including: In Home Supports, Employment First Services, Community Residential Services (CRS), CRS Tech Homes, and Specialized Community Supports. DSPs are the backbone of these services. Their work promotes informed decision-making, understanding risk, and exercising the rights and choices of people. Providing direct support is highly complex and requires significant skills, including sound judgment, independent problem-solving, decision-making, behavioral assessment, and crisis prevention and intervention.

We are thankful for past investments in the DWRS as well as the implementation of the CWF; however, reimbursement rates continue to perpetuate a significant wage gap for DSPs when compared to similar occupations. This has limited the ability of community providers to sustain competitive wages and benefits that reflect the professionalism and importance of the services provided. Further, a workforce shortage coupled with a high demand for caregiving professionals has exacerbated staffing shortages and turnover, with the potential to negatively impact the health, safety, and well-being of the people we support.

**Please support HF382 to make investments in the DSP workforce and strengthen services for people with disabilities.** This is critical to providing adequate and stable resources that ensure our neighbors are supported when, where and how they need it. Thank you, again, for this opportunity. Please contact Erin Sutton, LSS' Senior Director of Advocacy, at [erin.sutton@lssmn.org](mailto:erin.sutton@lssmn.org) if we may provide further information on this deeply important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Thueson", written in a cursive style.

Patrick Thueson  
President, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

