



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Mohamud Noor
Chair, Human Services Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Anne Neu Brindley
Republican Lead, Human Services Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
251 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Legal Aid letter of support for HF 5228

Dear Chair Noor, Lead Neu Brindley, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid and the Minnesota Disability Law Center write in support the elimination of Medical Assistance Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) fees in HF 5228.

TEFRA is an option that allows children who otherwise would not be eligible to access Medical Assistance, residential services, and home and community-based services. Last session, TEFRA fees were eliminated for parents whose children are enrolled in straight MA or whose children are accessing home and community-based services. However, fees were not eliminated for parents whose children are living in children's residential facilities (CRFs), psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs), and Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICFs/DD).

For families who are at 275% of the federal poverty guidelines or higher, TEFRA fees can still push families into financial hardship. For a family of four, 275% of FPG is \$85,800 per year. This is less than the cost of living in many Minnesota counties according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Furthermore, the fees push families under DEED's cost of living standard in most other counties. Although the number of families having to choose between paying their mortgage, going into debt, and paying their TEFRA fees has fallen thanks to last session's legislation, there are still families facing these choices.

Legal Aid Letter re: HF 5228
April 8, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. We urge you to support HF 5228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Purrington".

Jennifer Purrington
Legal Director/Deputy Director
Minnesota Disability Law Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Smart".

Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney
Legal Aid

This document has been formatted for accessibility. Please call Ellen Smart at 612/746-3761 if you need this document in an alternative format.