



February 26, 2023

House Human Services Committee

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HF1384/SF1272

Dear Chair Fischer and Human Services Policy Committee Members,

We are writing today to express our strong support for HF1384 which addresses the fees paid to access Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities and requires the Department of Human Services to advise people about the existence of the program.

MA-EPD provides an essential pathway for employed people with disabilities whose health care needs are not met through their private insurance to access the care they need, but the fees and asset limits create an obstacle to competitive integrated employment.

We believe it is in the public good to do everything we can to encourage competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities. But the current fees and asset limits discourage competitive wage integrated employment, and keep many people with disabilities from getting ahead in ways that people without disabilities are able to enjoy. People with disabilities should be able to save for their future, enjoy the benefits of promotions, and build their income just as people without disabilities are able to.

These fees were implemented in a time when charging fees to people with disabilities was seen as an acceptable way to balance the state budget, but that time has passed. It is time to ensure that individuals with disabilities have the freedom to live their lives without these financial burdens that are not experienced by people without disabilities.

We are grateful to Representative Hicks for bringing this important bill, and we urge your strong support of HF1384/SF1272 to eliminate MA-EPD fees.

Sincerely,

Multicultural Autism Action Network

Fatima Molas, Co-Founder

Delia Samuel, Co-Founder

Rufo Jiru, Board Member

Maren Christenson Hofer, Executive Director