



RE: **HF 2516 PCA Payment Rates Modified**
ATTN: Minnesota House Human Services Finance Committee
Date: March 13, 2023

Honorable Chair Noor and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Council on Disability is writing to express our strong support for House File 2516, which would modify payment rates for personal care assistants (PCAs) in our state. The Council on Disability is a state agency whose mission is to advocate, inform, and advance the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities.

As an agency dedicated to promoting the well-being of individuals with disabilities, the Council on Disability recognizes the critical role that PCAs play in supporting people with disabilities to live independently in their communities. However, low payment rates have led to a severe shortage of PCAs in our state, which has had a significant impact on individuals with disabilities and their ability to live fulfilling and independent lives.

By modifying payment rates for PCAs, HF 2516 would make Minnesota more competitive in recruiting and hiring PCAs, addressing our workforce shortage and ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive the high-quality care they need and deserve. This change would have a significant positive impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities, as well as on our state's economy.

The Council on Disability recognizes that the shortage of PCAs is a critical issue in our state and supports any efforts to address this issue. We believe that HF 2516 represents an important step forward in filling the workforce shortage and improving the lives of individuals with disabilities in Minnesota.

The Council hopes you will support HF 2516 and work to ensure its passage into law. We thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities in our state and look forward to working together to address the critical shortage of PCAs.

Sincerely,

Trevor Turner
Public Policy Director
Minnesota Council on Disability