



March 4, 2021

To: Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee  
RE: House File 1431

Dear Chair Schultz and Committee Members,

We write on behalf of the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) and the Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP), two statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. MDLC serves as the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organization for Minnesota, one of 49 other state P&A's federally designed under a Congressional act. MDLC provides free legal services to children and adults with disabilities in Minnesota. LSAP is the advocacy arm of Legal Aid and has provided legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid's clients and all low-income Minnesotans since 1977.

We write to share our support for House File 1431, a bill that would reinstate community access for people who use Minnesota's PCA program. We are grateful to Senator Mathews for leading on this important issue.

Now, more than ever, many people who use the PCA program need the support of their PCAs to support them with transportation. Making transportation an Instrumental Activity of Daily Living will ensure that people can use their already authorized services in a person-centered way get to work, appointments, to get Covid-19 tested or vaccinated, or other needed activities in the community. Given the severe lack of transportation assistance and options across the state, allowing people to use their PCA hours to help them access the community is consistent and necessary to meet Olmstead goals. It would also bring the PCA program participants on par with waiver recipients, whose direct support staff can bill for time spent driving.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue facing Minnesotans who have disabilities. We hope you will advance this proposal to increase community access for people who use the PCA program.

Sincerely,

Bud Rosenfield  
*Supervising Attorney*  
*Minnesota Disability Law Center*

Maren Hulden  
*Staff Attorney*  
*Legal Services Advocacy Project*