



Legal Services Advocacy Project  
970 Raymond Avenue, Suite G-40  
St. Paul, MN 55114

February 17, 2023

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: HF 716 – Access to Shared Services

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

On behalf of Legal Aid, the Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) respectfully write to express support for House File 716. LSAP and MDLC are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, representing all of Legal Aid's low-income clients and clients with disabilities. LSAP provides legislative advocacy and MDLC is the federally-designated "Protection and Advocacy" Agency, representing and advocating for Minnesotans with disabilities.

The intent of this bill is to remove certain barriers for Minnesotans with disabilities to their ability to choose to live in their own homes. It also seeks to address some of the workforce shortage barriers to living in homes of their own. HF 716 seeks to achieve those goals by expanding access to shared services so people who have disabilities who need similar services can, if workable for all involved, choose to share services and service providers. This concept is already permitted under Consumer-Directed Community Supports (CDCS).

HF 716 also makes changes to the Individualized Home Supports with Training (IHST) service, allowing the provider to be compensated for services for individuals with their consent, but not necessarily with their direct contact, to ensure continuity of other necessary services. Further, and importantly, it allows individuals temporarily travelling out of state to be supported by their IHST staff while doing so.

Thank you for allowing Legal Aid to share its support of HF 716.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood  
Supervising Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenn Purrington".

Jenn Purrington  
Legal Director  
Minnesota Disability Law Center

cc: The Honorable Leigh Finke, author, HF 716