



March 23, 2022

To: Chair Schultz and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF 4273

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) writes to share our support of HF 4273. MNCCD is a broad-based coalition of advocacy and provider organizations and individuals working to change public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities through building awareness, providing education, and engaging in the community. We are very supportive of HF 4273, which would bring needed updates and reforms to Minnesota's Medicaid program for Employed People with Disabilities (MA-EPD).

HF 4273 aligns with MNCCD's policy principles of promoting individual empowerment and choice, as well as improving essential supports and services. Thanks to our MA-EPD program, people who have disabilities can work, use their income to support their families, save for retirement, and own a home, all while receiving coverage from Medicaid for the disability related supports they need. This program is an essential tool for ensuring that Minnesotans who have disabilities can bring their talents and experiences to Minnesota's workforce and for ensuring that Minnesota works towards the goal of full inclusion of people who have disabilities.

MA-EPD has been a critical part of our disability supports for over 20 years, and it is time for an update. HF 4273 includes a set of changes, based on the lived experiences of people who use the program, that will make the program work better for participants and the state. The proposal will also reduce administrative barriers and burdens. These improvements will make it possible for more people who have disabilities to work and retain their earnings. These changes will likely increase the number of people who have disabilities in the workforce, potentially in areas where the state is experiencing workforce shortages. HF 4273 is a smart set of changes to an important program.

We urge the committee to support HF 4273.

Sincerely,

Melissa Haley  
Public Policy Co-Chair

Maren Hulden  
Public Policy Co-Chair