



April 7, 2021

To: Chair Liebling and Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee
RE: House File 2128, DE 1

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

We write on behalf of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD), a broad coalition of over 30 advocacy and provider organizations, as well as individuals who have disabilities and their allies, working to change disability policy, raise awareness, and engage community.

MNCCD writes to share our concerns with Sections 50 and 51 of HF 2128. The changes to reimbursement for Durable Medical Equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) will result in Minnesotans with disabilities and complex medical conditions losing access to needed specialized medical equipment. Many DMEPOS products are already currently reimbursed at the Medicare rate; the items reimbursed above the Medicare rate are specialized supplies that are medically necessary for certain people but may be costly because they are specialized. Examples of these critical products include specialty tracheostomy tubes, specialty enteral feeding tubes, and customized wheelchairs.

Reducing rates risks limiting access to needed equipment for people use specialized equipment to meet their needs. Without adequate reimbursement, DMEPOS suppliers will likely stop carrying certain items, leaving people who rely on DMEPOS products without access. In bringing forward legislation focused on DME providers, the negative impact will be realized by the Minnesotans with disabilities and complex medical conditions that the DMEPOS providers and the state through the Medicaid program serve.

Medicare and Medicaid populations are different, and children and adults on Medicaid often have far more need for specialized DMEPOS products at issue. Changing rates will have a disproportionate impact on Minnesotans who need DMEPOS products to live safely at home. We are also concerned about the equity impacts of this proposal as access to products may vary between Medicaid fee for service and waived services. Finally, we are concerned that these reductions are being proposed when the state has a budget surplus.

Thank you so much for all you do on behalf of Minnesotans and your leadership on this bill. We appreciate this opportunity to share feedback.

Maren Hulden and Melissa Haley
MNCCD Policy Committee Co-Chairs