



Supporting a full array of disability service options

March 28, 2023

Chair Noor and Members of the Human Services Finance Committee

Our network of A-Team MN families with a member who is unable or has limited ability to speak and advocate for themselves want to thank you for your efforts to reinforce supports our family members need in their daily lives.

We are of course disappointed to see language related to eliminating the subminimum or special wage work option that we oppose.

Through your work, you identified a workforce shortage of people who support our family members 24/7. The direct support professionals. No home, work or life enrichment disability services can be safe or feasible for them without direct support professionals.

Elimination of subminimum wage will likely require an increased workforce of direct support professionals. No one can calculate those costs for today nor for the future.

Center based special wage work options are the informed choice of our family members.

As parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents of people with moderate to profound intellectual or developmental disability we ask that you engage in fact finding to learn about provider business models using subminimum wage option, identify strengths and weakness, who is served, are they doing what they want, why it is their choice and identify improvements.

We ask you to please honor the informed choice of our family members who have significant intellectual or development disabilities.

Thank you for giving us time to share our thoughts with you today.

Sue Hankner
A-Team MN
President and co-founder