



January 30, 2023

To: Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee

**RE: HF240 (Reyer)**

Dear Chair Noor and Committee Members,

**Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HF240** to increase the household 40-hour cap for parents of minors and spouses on the Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) and Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) programs.

Partners in Community Supports (PICS) is a statewide Financial Management Service provider that offers financial and technical support for individuals and families who choose to design their own support structures and remain in their own homes and communities. We have been helping individuals manage the financial aspects of self-directed care and facilitating Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS), Consumer Support Grant (CSG) and other unique consumer-direct programs since 1999. PICS is a subsidiary of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) and one of the largest CDCS/CSG providers in Minnesota. PICS supports over 1,800 participants and 2,800 support workers on CSG and CDCS across 47 counties.

This proposal is a strong solution to support participants who have more than one family caregiver in their household as well as households with multiple people accessing CDCS. We know that 60% of support workers live with PICS' supported participants. They are helping their family members remain at home and in community which has become more critical amidst a severe workforce shortage. We hope this proposal can alleviate caregiver burnout while also acknowledging the professionalism and importance of caregiving work.

Please support HF240 as it will help our neighbors be supported when, where and how they need it. Please contact Erin Sutton, LSS' Senior Director of Advocacy, at [erin.sutton@lssmn.org](mailto:erin.sutton@lssmn.org) if we may provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tory Merhar".

Tory Merhar  
Associate Vice President of Community Based  
Services  
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alaina Ericksen".

Alaina Ericksen  
Senior Director  
Partners in Community Support