

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Abera Koricha <abel609k@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: Support of HF 3712- concerns Regarding the Flat rate payment Methodology

Dear: Rep. Nick Stump-Lunger

I am Abel Koricha writing to express my support for HF 3712. As a provider of Family Residential Adult Foster Care in Lakeville MN for four years, I believe it is crucial for this bill to be passed.

In my years of experience, I have come to understand the diverse needs of individuals under my care. I strive to tailor my services to meet each individual's specific needs, ensuring they benefit from both the family setting and personalized care.

Providing quality person-centered care is paramount to me, and I am concerned that the proposed flat rate payment methodology may negatively impact the delivery of such care and services.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective on this matter. Your dedication and hard work in the legislature are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Abel Koricha

Alex Lancaster AFC
5435 Eisenhower LN SE
Rochester, MN 55904

February 26, 2024

Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee
551 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Fisher and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Alex Lancaster, residing in Rochester, MN. I am writing you in support of HF 3712. As a direct care provider in a family foster care home for over seven years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

In my facility, I have taken on the responsibility of caring for people who are severely physically disabled, including being hoier-dependent and electric-wheelchair bound permanently. I employ multiple full-time and part-time staff to share the responsibilities of caring for these individuals with almost every single aspect of their daily living needs. Their direct care needs are extensive, labor-intensive, and require staff assistance through almost all hours of their waking day. Switching to a flat rate payment model for compensation would require our facility to shut down its' practices in the context in which they are currently provided, thus displacing the individuals being served due to an inability to financially carry the burden of ensuring our employees have proper salaries for the difficult and important work they do alongside me. I cannot physically care for these individuals alone as it would be unsafe and unethical to do so.

Additionally, all three individuals we currently serve have had multiple placements in alternative residential settings in Minnesota that have all resulted in neglect, abuse, or an inability to properly care for their medical and health needs. In my home, as the license holder and primary care provider, I have helped each individual meet goals they never thought were possible at their prior placements. This has included improving their health, finding work, gaining important relationships, engaging in hobbies or recreation of their choice, and staving off serious chronic issues like persistent wounds, inability to sleep, and excessive digestive complications that cripples a person's ability to live the life they desire. The consistency and continuity of care that I provide is only obtainable due to the superior model that FRS is. The individuals that live with me often offer words of gratitude and relief that they have finally found a family home with a provider who can meet their needs so consistently. Even the mention of them moving into a different type of residential setting triggers traumas and fears of their past placements and how they struggled to have even their most basic humanistic needs met. These are needs that we take for granted every single day because we can walk to a bathroom, make a meal for ourselves, take a shower, or even just hold a toothbrush or a comb. Knowing they can rely on me and my staff allows them to meet their basic physiological and safety needs, as well as expand their engagement in other essential parts of life that all humans desire and deserve.

I appreciate your time hearing my perspective and thank you for taking on the responsibility of making important decisions that have significant impact on our community and so many vulnerable lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AL', written in a cursive style.

Alex Lancaster

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Amane Wako <aniwamane@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 9:11 AM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: HF 3712 Support

February 26, 2024

Dear: Rep. Nick Stump-Lunger

My name is Amane Wako from Champlin. I am writing to you in support of HF 3712. As a provider of Family Residential Adult Foster Care for 3 years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

Everyone has different needs; I provide the services based on the individuals' needs to make sure they benefit from the family setting as well as specific individual care. Providing quality person-centered care is very important to me, and the flat rate payment methodology may impact person-centered care and services.

Thank you so much for your time and the work you do at the legislature.

Sincerely,

Amane Wako

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Anbessa Tufa <anbessat@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 11:34 PM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: Supporting HF3712 Bill

Dear Legislators,

My name is Anbessa Tufa. I live in the City of Otsego, Wright County, Minnesota. I recently heard that there will be a hearing to discuss on HF3712 bill. I am writing in support of the bill as the issue is Important to me as a family residential service provider and to clients who receive services.

I strongly support the bill because the flat rate payment might not be a good option for a residential service setting and delaying the implementation of the rate brings a solution after further research and discussion with providers. Residential service recipients come from a variety of settings and need care from simple to intense degree. Some need 24-hour personal attention and some don't.

Clients' social and developmental skills can be enhanced when providers give more (one-on-one) time to them. Clients can easily get opportunities to learn skills such as cooking, cleaning, going to grocery for shopping, and other household duties. A variety of services have their own levels of complexity and measurements. Therefore, before implementing the flat rate system, doing further studies on how family residential service providers accomplish their daily routine activities is most important.

I appreciate your consideration of delaying the implementation of the flat rate system and would be grateful for the opportunity given to me to express my support of the HF3721 bill.

Thank you,

Anbessa Tufa

Angela Strasser
20320 Dunbar Avenue
Farmington, MN 55024-8114

February 23, 2024

Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee
551 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Fisher and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Angela Strasser from Farmington. I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As an FRS provider for the last 5 years, it's important to the individuals I support to see HF 3712 bill get passed. My name is Angela Strasser, I reside in Farmington, MN, and support three disabled adults in a Foster Care setting, referred to as an FRS. We are a residential home that is part of a thriving community in Dakota County.

My entire adult life has been supporting the disabled community in one capacity or another. I have supported individuals while in institutions and celebrated when the same individuals were able to choose the community in which they wanted to live and work. I moved to Minnesota in 1999 due to Minnesota's leadership and direction of this change. I decided to open our home in 2019 to complex need individuals who were unsuccessful with placement within other programs. We provide intensive services to individuals, both complex medical and severe mental health related. These individuals deal with trauma. They need additional love and support as they were not successful in other settings. They were in and out of crisis, over medicated, stuck in a hospital bed without guidance and case managers scrambling to find anyone to place them. Together, in our home, we have been able to provide support and guidance to reduce their fears, uncertainties, and breakthrough some of the trauma they have not dealt with in the past. The continuity of care is superior. Medication reductions, weight loss, nutrition, a variety of therapies that would have never been researched or discovered had they not resided in our home and the overall reassurance that we are the same people that will be there for them daily. They don't worry about who will help them in the shower, who will help them through an anxiety attack or when the voices start will they be disregarded. We will be the same individuals who will work through their toughest days and celebrate their best days. I could type endless pages of how we have been successful, their guardians and case managers can tell you as well. The difference is our commitment to them residing in our home and being there through it all. Having structure to meet their needs, their goals and support their dreams. It's exhausting and we are always on our toes as we experience a variety of curve balls during our day. It could be the Amazon delivery guy who looks like the person who previously abused them or a noise that happened in the grocery store that triggered an outburst. We are there for them through everything, 24/7, 365 days. The same people, always!

This is important to the individuals we support, me and our FRS community because the individuals we support would lose that security if the tier rate goes into effect. It will throw the entire system on its back and individuals will be looking for placement again because we will be unable to operate with such low rates and the inability to request exceptions. This is not a cookie cutter program. Everyone has their own challenges and abilities and to help individuals move forward in their life we are exceptionally important to the system. In conversations with other residential providers, there are approximately 1168, 70% of said providers would not be able to continue and would need to look for other employment. It would be beyond devastating. Please come to our homes, talk to the individuals supported and ask them what impact we have had on their entire life, their extended family, and the overall community in which they chose to live. We need to be able to share the truth in the value we have to Minnesota. We wear many hats, have endless paperwork just like corporate settings and we are also their full-time care providers. The clock doesn't stop for us, ever! We continue to ensure all their needs are met, exceeded and for their next steps to be addressed, without FRS providers the state will experience a whole new set of challenges in an already compromised workforce.

Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee I want to sincerely thank you for your time and the work you do at the legislature.

Sincerely,

Angela Strasser

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: ayan Hilowle <ayan_354@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 6:22 PM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: flat rate- family foster care

My name is Ayan Hilowle from Rochester, MN. I am writing you in support of HF 3712. I've been a psychiatric nurse for over 5 years and have been in nursing for over 14 years. It is important to me to see this bill get passed because it greatly contributes the quality of life for the persons served and my family. My passion for the serving the underprivileged goes back years. In my profession as a psychiatric nurse I've seen patients with nowhere to go. They either end up in the streets or end up dead. Family foster is an amazing option for people with different needs because they get great quality care and they become family. My family has been providing adult family foster care for over 4 years. My family absolutely adores those women and been have part of our family. They have seen our children grow.

In my home specifically I have three women with psychiatric disorders such as bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder and developmental delays. My home is unique because they have live in psychiatric RN. The persons I serve have had less psychiatric admission to the hospital because of the preventative care we provide such CBT (cognitive behavioral therapy). The efforts we put in on a daily basis have had a major impact on their quality of life. The rate change will great affect my family foster care because we would not be able to afford to take care of our individuals and PAY our bills at the same time.

I want to thank all the members of the senate for taking their time to read this letter!

Daratu Worku
Darartu Worku Adult Foster Care
7379 Degrio Way,
Inver Grove Heights,
MN 55076

Date - February 27, 2024

Rep. Nick Stumor-Lunger
Committee Administrator at Minnesota House of Representative
532 State House Building 100
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Jr. Dr.,
Saint Paul,
MN 55115

Subject: Urgent Support for HF 3712 - Personal Testimony from Daratu Worku, Family Foster Home Provider

Dear Rep. Nick Stumor-Lunger,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm Daratu Worku, a dedicated Family Foster Home provider in Inver Grove Heights, MN. I strongly endorse HF 3712, as its approval is vital for maintaining essential services provided by Family Foster Homes like mine.

For the last two years, my husband and I have dedicated ourselves to providing compassionate care to individuals dealing with various challenges, such as ADHD, fetal syndrome, anxiety disorder, and borderline personality disorder. One resident, in particular, sought refuge in our Family Foster Home after encountering difficulties in an ICS facility. Struggling to get along with other roommates, she faced incidents of multiple self-injury or conflicts with peers.

However, the proposed flat-rate methodology puts our ability to continue this level of care at risk. As 24/7 caregivers, any change to this methodology may compromise our Family Foster Home's sustainability, potentially leading our clients to seek alternative placements like group homes or ICS facilities.

HF 3712 is not just about sustaining Family Foster Homes but also ensuring the well-being of vulnerable individuals relying on our dedicated care. I urge you to consider the real-world impact on both providers and those we serve.

I appreciate your unwavering commitment and dedication in the legislature. Thank you for focusing on this issue and consistently working towards improving the lives of those facing challenging health conditions. I'm hopeful that your actions will result in positive outcomes, safeguarding the well-being of individuals in need.

Sincerely,

Darartu Worku

Inver Grove Heights, MN

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Alicia Olson from Zimmerman . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

My name is Alicia Olson from Zimmerman. I am writing you in support of HF 3712. As a provider of Adult Foster Care for 16 years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I provide care to one individual in my home with the focus on individuals with profound and reoccurring mental health issues as well as physical and medical ailments that make it unsafe for them to live independently. I provide a family atmosphere, filling a void for those who haven't known what a loving family feels like allowing them to heal life long trauma.

Because of the safe and loving environment, much healing has happened here over my years of service. Something that wouldn't be possible in other spaces because of the consistent level of care provided by myself and one other.

Due to the health of my current client, they are unable to work. That means they are limited to their personal needs funds for all community outings, special snacks, personal care items, clothing, gifts etc. That is obviously not enough and thus means I as a provider spend substantial amounts of money to ensure a quality of life for them that they deserve to life. This is something I will not be able to continue with the proposed budget cuts. If I'm even able to stay open with the proposed rates. I understand we need to shift how we pay RFS providers, that a lot has been poured into this new methodology. However, the rates are unrealistic and will be catastrophic to a large amount of people as homes will close, removing an entire option of housing. An option that is valuable and needs to be seen as such.

Thank you for your time and commitment to seeing the value in this population and the work that providers do.

Sincerely,

Alicia Olson
Olson Homes
25844 10th st w
Zimmerman, MN 55398-8796

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Daniel & Jacqueline Quiram from Long Lake . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

My spouse and I have been Family Residential service providers for 12 years. I grew up in a family that provided family foster care. My spouse has worked in the human services field for over 40 years. Our combined experience in this field allowed us to take on a more challenging population. It is imperative that family providers are allowed some additional time to show how the flat rate, as currently proposed, will force family providers out.

The environment of a family atmosphere gave our individuals the stability and consistency they need. The staffing crisis that the human services field is currently experiencing for the Direct Support Professional role makes consistency almost nonexistent in the individuals' lives. This unpredictability of who they can rely on, on a day to day basis has an extremely negative effect on the individual's quality of services and their quality of living. Whenever we had staff call in sick my spouse and I were always there to fill in where needed. Again, offering some consistency in the resident's life. If the flat rate goes into effect, family residential services will most likely become nonexistent. What will happen to all the people currently being served, where will they move to and what is the impact on them?

As family providers we are always available it is a 24/7 commitment. The level of care our individuals require, also make it necessary to hire outside help. The flat rate would not leave income to hire outside assistance and therefore would not have the means to continue this care. Many of us have hired accountants to help us with more accurate cost reporting, we have many of the same expenses as corporate and these expenses are on going. If on a flat rate we will be forced out and this will have a negative impact to the people served.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address our concerns and thank you for the service you provide to the citizens of Minnesota.

Jacqueline & Daniel Quiram
Long Lake, MN

Sincerely,

Daniel & Jacqueline Quiram
James L Falk
1800 Orchard Ln
Long Lake, MN 55356-4514

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Sarah Jewell from Avon . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As a provider of adult foster care for individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities, it is very important that this bill gets passed.

We have been doing adult foster care for over 20 years. We help adults with disabilities to live full and independent lives on a hobby farm outside of St. Cloud, MN. If the flat rate is implemented, it will result in us having to possibly close down or cut beds down because the funding will not be enough to cover all the costs and expenses of running a home and remaining in compliance with all of the Minn. Stat. 245D rules.

Thank for your attention to this and for your support to ensure we don't have to close or cut down the amount of beds we offer in our home. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jewell
Jewell Family Foster Care
33294 112th Avenue Avon Mn
Avon, MN 56310-9684

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Christie Martin from Princeton . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

My name is Christie Martin from Milaca,MN. I am writing you in support of HF 3712. As a provider of Princeton,MN for 8 years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I run an adult foster care home in Princeton, MN caring for 4 adults. The flat rate payment methodology would impact our ability to provide adequate cares for our clients. The existing responsibilities we already contend with require my support for this bill. This bill will help us support or clients without costing us our homes and the ability to care for those we love. We have a high level of difficulty home that requires us to hire additional staffing to care for the needs of each individual client.

Thank you so much for your time and the work you do at the legislature.

Christie Martin
Princeton MN

Sincerely,

Christie Martin
Lifeworks Care LLC
507 6th ave s
Princeton, MN 55371-2216

Dear Chair Fisher and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Deborah Hyde from Zimmerman . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As a provider of Adult Family Foster Care for the past 5 years in Zimmerman, Mn. It is important to me that this bill get passed. I am in support of this bill.

We have an adult family foster care which provides needed support for the high need mental health community. One of our residents has been in and out of group home settings and hospitals. The last time she was released from a hospital for her mental health issues, it took over 200 phone calls to get her housed. The flat rate methodology will impact my ability to do this work. We have a lot of daily things we must do to keep our residents stable in their mental health. The flat rate methodology will likely cause our home to close and our paid staff to seek other employment. Heartbreaking to think of that.

Thank you so much for your time and your careful consideration of my concerns . I appreciate the work you do, Thank you

Sincerely,

Deborah Hyde
27818 Lake Diann Rd.
Zimmerman, MN 55398-9233

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Frank Sullivan from Maple Lake . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

Adult Foster Care

We are a 24 hour family adult foster care home. We care for our resident line they are our own family day and night. It's takes an additional 8-10 hours/day for one or the other of us plus food, travel, etc. if a flat rate is instituted we would not be able to continue providing this service. It would be sad.

Thank you for your time and advocacy on behalf of those less fortunate than us and in need of living assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank Sullivan
Frank & Mary Sullivan
6647 Gowan Ave NW
Maple Lake, MN 55358-2418

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Roxanne Senne from Oronoco . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As a provider of Family Adult Foster Care (245d) in Rochester, MN area for the past 30 years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I have had multiple adult foster care residents living in my home at one time and I love helping each one of them with their daily activities and challenges. Each of these residents is individually different in their own needs and the time and effort each may require. A flat rate system would not take this into effect and would not seem fair to the providers that take on residents with higher needs. It is very important that this bill be passed so this can be addressed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input and for all you do in the legislature. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Senne
Roxanne's Adult Foster Care
6535 Cty Rd 158 NW
Oronoco, MN 55960

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Sharon Morey from Minneapolis . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As a provider for Family Foster Care Provider for 14 years, I am asking for your support for HF 3712.

This flat rate payment mythology would negatively impact my ability to continue in this field of work.

Thank you for supporting HF 3712 and for the work you do at the legislature level of government.

Sincerely,

Sharon Morey
Joseph's Chateau
12715 42nd PI N
Minneapolis, MN 55442-2350

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Tariku Bashenu from Saint Paul . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As a provider of Family Adult Foster Care for 3 years and 3 months, it's important to me to see this bill get passed.

Since I started providing care to residents, I have been providing care 24/7 and have never take any vacation with my families since my residents are those who needs a lot of support and assistance in their daily living.

With in the last 3 years and 3 months, I have residents who were totally dependent on me for food, attending their doctor appointment, setting doctor appointment, going to bathroom to Shower, and doing Laundry.

In 2020 I had a resident who had not place to live and all other providers refused to support but I brought her to my facility from a motel in Bloomington and was providing Support 1:1 24 hours but paid only for 16 hours and I did not complain about it since I am strong believer of providing support for just being human being.

The other resident I had was someone who does not properly use bathroom, does not know how to set up doctor appointment, can not use medical ride because of anxiety and cannot sit by himself for even an hour without staff support.

As I have been a family foster care provider, this bill must remain a fundamental and crucial legislative power to support the most vulnerable population being served.

There are days I provide services and support with out sleep for 26-32 hours as my residents needs support most of the days with out sleep and no vacation at all, A flat rate framework and methodology planned will impact AFC and other healthcare providers significantly in a way that reduces healthcare quality, efficiency, sustainability, and equity for the following reasons

Thank you very much for taking action to pass this bill. I will also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your collaboration, support, and consideration. Action on this bill will make a difference not only to AFC providers but also to other healthcare providers and service recipients.

Sincerely,

Tariku Bashenu
Tariku Bashenu AFC
1068 Dennis Street South
Saint Paul, MN 55119-3571

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Brian Beert from Saint Peter . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

I have recently obtained my Family Residential Services provider license in 2023. It is important to me that this bill be passed. The family providers should be allowed an opportunity to provide evidence of the harmful impact a flat rate would have to the family providers.

I am new as a family residential adult foster care provide. In order to meet the required Statutes 245D.081 subdivision 2, paragraph (b,) I must hire staff to perform the duties of the Designated Coordinator and Manager. If the current proposed flat rate goes into effect I would no longer be provided the funding to hire for either of these positions and would be disqualified from providing services.

The individual I care for has made many improvements in the short time he has resided with me. When he arrived he was so bent over he could hardly walk. His body composition has improved exponentially his family and team is thrilled with his progress. I feel without my continuous daily guidance and encouragement he would digress. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching this gentlemen's self esteem flourish. It would be a great disappointment if I would no longer be afforded this opportunity to continue with his cares. If this bill is not passed and the flat rate takes effect I would be forced out of providing foster care services and this individual would have to move out of what he thought was his forever home. Please allow the family providers additional time to advocate and supply supporting evidence as to why the flat rate would have a drastic effect on the people we serve.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do. Please consider this bill.
Brian Beert, Saint Peter.

Sincerely,

Brian Beert
The Beert Residence
39105 436th St
Saint Peter, MN 56082-5077

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Troy Ostrowski from Saint Cloud . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

I am a family foster care provider in Sherburne county for 20 plus years. I am writing you this letter in support to HF 3712. It is important to me as a provider for this bill to pass.

We have chosen to open our home and spend personal family time to help individuals with disabilities have good quality of life.

The majority of every day is spent assisting the guys either with personal hygiene, learning daily living skills, appts, going out in the community etc.

The assistance vary with each individual. What is easy for some, is more complex and takes longer for others. A day for 1 individual consists of multiple reminders & follow up on a task, communicating when a job is well done or if they need to work on certain areas, working on a behavior-first getting through the behavior than sitting down and discussing it when a person is ready. Than there is time spent scheduling appts, taking an individual to their appts (which for some is many), discussions with case managers &/or guardians, ensuring medications are taken on time & correct dosage, ensuring that all state & county paperwork is done daily, monthly, and annually.

Just a reminder that most providers do have staff that we pay. The hourly wage that is paid to keep good employees would not even be covered by proposed cuts, let alone how it will affect the individuals we help in my home.

Thank you for taking the time to read and take my letter into consideration in making your decision.

Sincerely,

Troy Ostrowski
Haven Country Care Home
2153 45th St. SE
Saint Cloud, MN 56304-8549

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Erika Jane Anes from Rochester . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

Being a caregiver gives me joy and an opportunity to impact the lives of the person I served in my own home. My family had been supportive including my children ages 21 years old to as young as 8years old. Our family dynamic is unique as they have been an extended family to us. Not only we provide an exceptional care to meet their physical health and mental needs but as well as giving them a much better quality of life in our home and in the community. Individuals that had thought would die from illness had become healthy and independent with a very minimal hospital admission and emergency department trip. We had taken them to family trips, community outings from shopping to dining out. Things that these people did not have an opportunity if they live in a nursing home. They have given more freedom and at the same time are getting the assistance they need from medication administration to helping them in their instrumental daily activity.

I have seen how much they have improved in spite of the limited financial resources they had because of the support they get. They were able to accomplish life goals that they never thought they could such as employment opportunity, going to places like Winona, Duluth, Chicago and Florida. They were able to enjoy things that they never had with their own family as simple as eating out in a buffet. These changes will help us to continue to provide for the individuals we served at home and at the same time be able to pay for our bills and the events that they were not able to pay from their own pocket including over the counter medication and supplies. I implore that the Senate and the people would see from our end that we do not make money doing this. We serve because we need to help people that have luck out and has nowhere to go. A second chance in life to have a better quality of life and most importantly have a family support that they need when their own is not around.

I thank the Senate for the time and considerations to our request. And the AARM for advocating for the Family Foster Care providers

Sincerely,

Erika Jane Anes
Erika Anes Family Adult Foster Care
3553 8 1/2 st NW
Rochester, MN 55901-6646

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Kristin Zachman from Delano . I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As a provider of Adult Foster Care/Community Residential Services for over 15 years, It is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I currently take care of 2 people, one with high medical needs and the other with high behaviors. I provide 24/7 365 days a year care for these individuals. I have manage to improve their health and quality of their lives. They have lived with me for 10 & 7 years. If the flat rate goes into affect I would receive only \$12.00 an hour for each persons rate. This amount would not allow me to continue to provide services to them. Please vote to pass this bill so that a better philosophy for paying us can be to stay on the current framework rate as we do same work as a corporate home.

Thank you Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee for your time and the work you do at the legislature.

Sincerely,
Kristin M Zachman
Delano, MN

Sincerely,

Kristin Zachman
4044 ECKERT AVE SE
Delano, MN 55328-5234

Firaoli Usha
17942 Hawksbill Dr
Lakeville MN 55044

02/26/2024

Nick Stumo-Langer
Committee Administrator at Minnesota House of Representative
532 State House Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Jr. Dr.
Saint Paul, MN 55115

Dear Rep. Nick Stumo-Langer,

I am reaching out to express my full support for HF 3712 and to stress the critical importance of maintaining current rates for family foster care providers. With two years of experience in adult foster care, I have encountered firsthand the complexities involved in caring for individuals with varied and high-needs conditions.

One of my residents is facing behavioral challenges, including incidents of smearing feces on walls, that were beyond the management capabilities of his previous assisted living facility, resulting in escalating behaviors. In essence, he is a 34-year-old male with a complex medical history encompassing schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, Huntington's disease, generalized anxiety disorder, traumatic brain injury, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, antisocial personality disorder, and polysubstance abuse. He transitioned from his former residence due to behavioral issues. His difficult placement stems from a history of assault and the tragic loss of family members to Huntington's disease, including his mother when he was 11 years old, as well as his brother, sister, and uncle. Raised by his father and stepmother, who still reside in Minnesota, he shares a strong bond with them. Presently, he is under commitment and Jarvis oversight, he grapples with multiple chronic health conditions that can be overwhelming to manage. He previously resided at Nagel Assisted Living (Sunflower Communities) in the memory care unit, where he received care from a behavioral health case manager, psychiatrist, primary care physician, and neurologist. He is eager to maintain access to the Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) waiver program.

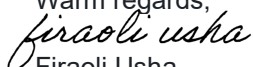
I am especially concerned about the potential implications of the proposed rate changes for family foster care providers. The exclusion of FFCs from the DWRS and the inability to request rate exceptions could lead to significant rate reductions, jeopardizing the quality of care available to individuals with high needs, like the individual mentioned.

I implore you to consider the widespread impact of these rate changes on providers and individuals in need of family foster care services. By supporting the delay in payment methodology changes and the establishment of an advisory task force to thoroughly analyze the consequences of the rate adjustment, we can ensure that individuals with distinct requirements receive the necessary support they deserve.

Thank you for your dedication to this cause and for your continuous efforts to enhance the lives of those in need. I am optimistic that your actions will lead to positive outcomes that safeguard the well-being of individuals grappling with complex health conditions.

I extend my gratitude for your tireless service and dedication in the legislature. Your efforts are truly making a difference.

Warm regards,



Firaoli Usha
Lakeville, Minnesota

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: furtuandfamily@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 11:07 PM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: support of HF 3712

Dear Rep Nick,

My name is Furtu Anotta from Coon Rapids. I am writing you in support of HF 3712. As a provider of Furtu and family Adult foster care for seven years, I need to see this bill get passed.

I am the owner, designated manager, and foster care coordinator. I started this business seven years ago due to my compassionate love of helping others and giving the best care to mentally and physically challenged individuals is very important to me. With the care we provided, I have seen significant improvements in my residents' quality of life. The amount of time the resident's care takes always differs from resident to resident, with some care requiring 24-hour supervision, total care, and a high level of supervision and behavior management in mentally ill residents. Considering these matters of individual care, the rate change will significantly affect the quality of the care I provide for my patients. As a passionate caregiver who strives to make a difference in individual lives, not being able to provide that care due to rate changes breaks my heart in many ways.

My residents always told me they are grateful that they were allowed to experience a family life rather than an institutional life where residents felt far from home and imprisoned in the places they did not choose to be. The most important things my clients expressed about being in adult foster care are the person-centered care and the one-on-one help they receive daily, which are essential to my residents. They genuinely appreciate the quality of care they have received for years. Without proper compensation, it would not be easy to provide the care they currently receive, which would significantly decline their health and affect the quality of their life.

Thank you very much for your time and work at the legislature.

Furtu Anotta

Coon Rapids, MN

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Gebi Felema <gfelema@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 9:41 PM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: in support of HF 3712.

Nick.Stumo-Langer@house.mn.gov

Dear Nick,

My name is Gebi Felema from the city of Maplewood. I am writing to you in support of HF 3712. As a provider of Family Adult Foster Care for seven years, it is important to me to see this bill passed.

I work with people who have different types of disabilities needing intensive guidance and support in their daily living activities at different levels. The support I provide depends on an individual's interests and preferences and requires human resources to fulfil their interests and preferences. I support individuals with their daily living activities and involve them in the community events and activities of their interests. I also support someone who needs emotional support by giving more attention and time to that individual. To do this more than one member of staff is needed. Integrating individuals into community is another activity included in the support plan.

I believe it is very important to understand how hard it would be for Family Foster Care Provider to continue supporting individuals who need intensive support and care if this bill does not pass. If this bill does not pass, person Centered planning will be jeopardized too.

I appreciate the work you do at the Legislature thank you so much for your time and hard work.

Sincerely,

Gebi Felema
Homewood Adult Foster Care Provider
2405 Schadt Drive E
Maplewood, MN 55119
763-923-4532/gfelema@yahoo.com

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Gelane Firisa <gelane08@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 10:47 AM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: HF 3712

Dear Representative Nick Stumo-Langer,

My name is Gelane Firisa, and I am writing to you from Burnsville, MN, to express my strong support for HF 3712. However, I want to clarify that while I support the intent of the bill, I do not endorse the proposed flat rate payment methodology.

As a provider of Angel Family Adult Care for the past five years, I have seen firsthand the vital role this service plays in our community. Every day, I am entrusted with the well-being and comfort of individuals who require specialized care due to various health conditions or disabilities. My work goes beyond mere assistance with daily tasks; it involves providing companionship and emotional support to those in need. This work is not merely a job for me; it is a calling, a vocation that brings me immense fulfillment knowing that I am making a positive difference in the lives of those I care for.

While I appreciate the aim of HF 3712 to address payment issues, I believe that a flat rate payment system would not be conducive to maintaining the quality of care my clients deserve. The fluctuating nature of reimbursement rates already poses a significant challenge, and a flat rate system could exacerbate this issue, potentially compromising the level of care provided. Instead, I advocate for a payment structure that ensures fair compensation while also allowing for flexibility to address the diverse needs of our clients.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I appreciate your dedication to serving the people of our state and urge you to explore alternative payment solutions that support both caregivers and those in need of Angel Family Adult Care services.


Sincerely, Gelane Firisa Burnsville, MN

2/27/2024

My name is Gameda Argo, reside in the city of Blaine and the county of Anoka. I am writing this letter in support of HF3712, I have been the provider of Argo Family Adult foster care since April of 2023 until now. it's important to me to see this bill get passed.

I have been giving service 24 hours and 7 days a week with the daily activities for my clients, as my client needs service 24 hours and 7 days a week from me, I am very concerned that the flat rate payment methodology proposed may impact the ability to continue giving service, so that's why I strongly sport the bill to be passed.

I would like to say thank you very much in advance for the time and work you do as the members of the legislature who fighting and supporting this bill.
Gameda Argo from the city of Blaine Anoka County.

Gameda Argo


Dear: Rep. Nick Stump-Lunger

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Gemene Gelgelu, and I am a resident of Lakeville, MN. I am reaching out to express my strong support for HF 3712.

Having worked as a provider of Family Residential Adult Foster Care for the past four years, I understand firsthand the importance of tailoring care to meet the unique needs of each individual under my care. I am deeply committed to delivering quality person-centered care, ensuring that those in my care benefit from both the familial environment and personalized support plans.

However, I am concerned about the potential impact of the proposed flat rate payment methodology outlined in HF 3712. While I appreciate the intention behind this approach, I worry that it may inadvertently hinder the provision of person-centered care and services. Each individual under my care has distinct needs, and a one-size-fits-all payment model may not adequately account for these differences.

I urge you to consider these concerns as you review HF 3712. It is crucial that any legislation related to residential care reflects a commitment to preserving and enhancing the quality of care provided to vulnerable individuals in our community.

Thank you for your time and dedication to your work at the legislature. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,

Gemene Gelgelu Lakeville, MN

February 27,2024

Nick Stumo-Lunger,

Committee Administrator at Minnesota House of Representative

532 State House Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Jr. Dr.

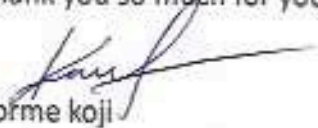
Saint Paul Mn 55115

Dear Nick Stumo-Lunger,

My name is Korme Koji from Blaine MN. I am a provider of adult family foster care for the last 5 years. I am writing you in support of HF 3712 and It is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I support residents with cerebral palsy, spastic quadriplegia, bipolar disorder, scoliosis, wheelchair dependent, total dependent on care givers including activity of daily living and repetitive behavior. Our daily support are bowl and bladder incontinences, Hoyer lift and repetitive behavioral management, community outing, setting appointment and providing transportations. To provide the best care our residents deserve, I have to have experienced and skilled staff to support me at my primary home to manage daily routine. The flat rate payment methodology would significantly impact to retain experienced staff, affect my ability to do the work and finally force me to close my house.

Thank you so much for your time and the work you do.


Korme koji

Maura B. O'Connor

709 Pine Street South

Sauk Centre, MN 56378

2-26-24

Chairman Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee

551 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Fischer and Members of the Human Services Policy Committee:

My name is Maura O'Connor, and I am the proud auntie and guardian to my two adult disabled nephews ages 45 and 43. I am writing in support of HF 3712 and ask that you also support said house file.

I am writing in regard to my nephew Shawn (43), who is in an FRS placement in Dakota County. Shawn has Autism, PTSD and was emotionally and behaviorally abused as a child. Shawn has lived in 2 different group homes prior to being placed in his present FRS home. In 2015 I moved Shawn to a group home that appeared more appropriate for his needs and was very "person centered." This group home was so person centered he was allowed to stay in his bedroom and in bed for up to 20 hours per day. The only time he left his room was when he ate, took meds or needed to address his hygiene needs. After a year he gained over 50 pounds, became withdrawn, combative, paranoid, and appeared to give up. I contacted his county social worker requesting a

change of placement and was introduced to the FRS community of services.

As a retired special educator and administrator, I am well aware of the needs and complexities of serving adults like Shawn. When he moved into his FSR, every movement needed to be micromanaged 24/7 365 days per year. For example, he would need to be told to pull out his chair, sit, pull in his chair, pick up his fork/spoon, gather food onto his utensil, put it into his mouth, chew and swallow. This needed to be done for every meal and snack for over a month. He was non-verbal, would not look you in the eye, and needed help in every aspect of his life. It has taken us over four years for him to express some of his needs and wants only within the confines of his FRS (Shawn was verbal until he moved into his 2nd group home) Every time he responds without prompting is a cause for celebration.

Shawn needs support and guidance 24/7 365 days per year, he needs a home with staff that are willing to find therapies for his emotional and mental health needs, follow through with behavior modification, maintain a healthy weight, making sure the meds are appropriate and lastly learning what parents are to act like, which he never knew.

I became aware that this past Minnesota Legislation session passed a law, HF2847, that will impact FRS homes in moving them to a new tier system and giving them a flat rate of care. My nephew's needs are greatly different than the other two gentleman who live in the same FRS home. He is not able to hold a job, communicate within the community and has avoidance behaviors when having to leave his home. His roommates are much more independent and to compare them as the same is ludicrous. Were you aware that no FRS representatives were on the said task force when this legislation was

being discussed? You were misled when you were told that FRS members were consulted and your DHS Licensing Director, Mary Kelsey, has also not spoken truth to this matter. I am very disappointed as an auntie, guardian, and taxpayer that this is how laws are created in this state when it comes to our most vulnerable community members.

As of today, there are approximately 1168 FRS providers in this state and when questioned 70% stated they would not be able to continue to provide their service thus sending numerous adults into uncertainty. Yes, there are group homes and many of them are closing homes because of cost and not being able to staff them. A DHS employee was overheard saying "We don't want those kinds of people living near us", what a crock coming from DHS. I have also heard that many corporate providers are "searching for anyone with a heartbeat". Please don't roll your eyes or chuckle as this is what is happening within your communities.

HF 2847 said it would save hundreds of thousands of dollars if FRSs were moved to a flat rate, really? If FRS providers close where will these individuals get placed. Presently, numerous vulnerable adults are receiving care in hospitals. How is this cost effective? Again, as a tax payor I am appalled as this is not appropriate for anyone. I am willing to sit down with you, have a virtual meeting, have you meet my nephew and watch what happens at his FRS.

Honestly, I don't know where Shawn and I would be without the FRS he is in right now. Their support, parenting, communication, and love for Shawn is above and beyond what he ever received within the group home community. We need more FRSs not less.

I am asking you to pass HR 3712 not just for my nephew, however for all this FRSs that will be impacted. We in Minnesota can and must do better.

Sincerely,

Maura B. O'Connor

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Mieso Koji <miesok@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 7:56 PM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: HF 3712

Dear Chairman Fisher and Members of House Human Service Committee.

My name is Mieso Koji an Adult Foster Care Provider in Dakota Co. Mn. I am writing you in support of HF 3712. As an adult foster home for the last 4 years and 3 months, it is very important to me to see this bill get passed. My wife Genet is an LPN with experience of over 16 years and I am an RN with over 13 years of experience. We both took care of service recipients in our home in the state of Oregon before we moved to Minnesota in 2019. Here in Mn, our first service recipients moved in on Nov 3rd 2019. Prior to that he was at his own apartment where PCA comes in and provided support during the day, put him in bed at night and back the following morning at 9:00 am. This service recipient is a diabetic, uses a wheelchair for mobility, incontinent of bowel and bladder, uses suprapubic catheter, Hoyer-Lift for transfers. At his apartment, when PCA is sick or late, he would remain in his bed with no access to food, personal cares or medication. Because of all those inadequate cares, he had skin breakdown, malnourished and was receiving nutritional boost to maintain his weight. After he moved with us, in three months, no skin concern or needs for extra nutritional supplement.

Our 2nd service recipient came from his mom's house on April 5th 2020. This individual is on medication for seizure and would get clusters of seizure in a week at his home. Since he moved with us for over 3 years and 9 months, we have not witnessed any episode of seizure. We did not do any magic but strictly followed his neurologist's order and administered his medication on time. No excuses for error.

Our 3rd service recipient who uses a wheelchair for all her mobility needs and requires Tube-Feeding for her nutritional support moved on August 17, 2020. On arrival, she weighed 70 pounds. In four months, she gained 26 pounds. We only followed her nutritionist's order and delivered per schedule.

With the high care needs of our service recipients, the flat rate would not meet our means to provide the proper care they require and the proposed bill would push us out of the care we currently providing at home. With the flat rate no incentive for us as an LPN, and RN professionals, we would be forced to seek employment in the healthcare industry and get a reasonable perks and health insurance for our family. These service recipients truly consider this is their home and the flat rate bill would misplace them from a place they truly consider a home. One service recipient's family jokingly commented "Where have you been all these years?" referring to those years his brother was in his own apartment under PCA cares. The proposed flat rate would impair the cares we provide with passion and compassion to our service recipients.

I truly appreciate all you do and thoughtfulness on this important bill that would keep our service recipients at a place they call it home.

Sincerely,

Mieso Koji

Sandra Donohue
3255 Sheridan Ave, N.
Minneapolis, MN 55412

February 26, 2024

Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee
551 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Fisher and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee:

My name is Sandra Donohue from Minneapolis. I am writing to you in support of HF 3712.

I became a FRS provider in 2004. Because my home was handicapped accessible, we were unique and could take people needing wheelchairs for mobility. Over the next 20-year period, and because the people we supported tended to be those with progressive diseases, we focused our home on those needing hospital level of care. We have supported over 20 people in our 20 years of fostering adults.

We have had people on vents, having tracheostomies, g-tubes, colostomies, ileostomies, straight catheters, pubic catheters, supra-pubic catheters, wounds and pressure sores. The people we support come with all types of complex medical needs like MS, paraplegia, quadriplegia, ALS, Cancer, and we provide hospice services at end-of-life so that they can stay at home and die with dignity.

In 2022, my daughter took over my 245A program. She has been working with me since she was 15 years old. She was 35 years old when she moved herself, her fiancé, and her young son into our home so she could take over care.

We have a doctor that supports us by coming to the home once per month (more if necessary) and we have access to him 24/7 through a medical portal in case we have needs after normal business hours. In 2023, we hired a full-time registered nurse to oversee our medication administration program and we added Therap to our software arsenal to ensure we are doing the best job we can in meeting the 245D requirements for both medication administration and goal tracking.

The people that we hire (because our clients need additional staffing per their CSSP's including awake staff and 1:1 staffing) become extended family to us. Their kids are included in that. We share holidays together, we share kid's birthdays together, celebrations like weddings, baby showers, life-happenings together because we are a family. In fact, we have a mother-daughter and mother-son working for us going back the full 20 years I have been a 245D/245A licensee.

Our program is completely person-centered. It is one of the foundations of who we are as a program. The people we support are in full charge of what they want their best life to look like, not force-fed programming because of being short-staffed or because that's the corporate way of doing things. Our clientele come directly from nursing homes, hospitals, and parental homes. We are a one-of-a-kind program and when we have an opening, it is filled within days of when I announce it.

I strive to make each person we support feel as if this is not only our home, but their home as well, that we are part of their extended family for as long as they are with us. Of the people that have passed away in our care, we still speak to their families and continue to include them in all of our summer and fall festivities. I have included a

letter from a daughter whose dad passed away after 12 years of living with me (Attachment 1), a Facebook shout-out from a daughter of a person who lived with us for over 6 years after her dad passed (Attachment 2) and from a case manager who I have worked with for several years (Attachment 3).

Since my daughter took over the 245A program I ran for almost 20 years, I have devoted myself to working with programs that already have their 245A license, but either have applied for or don't qualify to get their 245D license. Using a satellite practice and the same person-centered programming we do in the home I and now my daughter own, we support a total of 29 individuals in 18 homes across 8 counties in Minnesota. I took on a partner, Angela Strasser, in 2023, and she and I are working together to support the people in those homes along with the providers who run them.

With the push to be person-centered and provide individual programming so that the people we support can live a quality life of their choosing, it is difficult, as a provider, to hear that person-centeredness only goes as far as programming, but is not used as the foundation of the rates we are paid.

The people we support are not alike – they are not all the same. I have a gentleman we support currently that has a tracheostomy, g-tube, is incontinent of both urine and bowel and has the cognitive level of a toddler in a 29-year-old's body. His current language is pinching and pulling hair as he doesn't use language to tell us something is wrong or that he doesn't feel good. Because of his cognitive level, he does not understand to let go and we have had multiple situations where we have had to pull someone's hair out because he won't disengage, and we can't use a scissors for fear of cutting him. He must be micro-prompted for his every action and we have to direct him in his every task, or we can't get them done.

If this bill isn't passed, where does he go? We will not be able to sustain our programming as we will not be able to hire staffing, nursing and pay our bills. Currently, when we file for an exception using DHS-5820 (attached), we can usually get additional monies above what is already built into the DWRS framework for the following categories:

1. Average hourly wage of staff providing direct care
2. Wage for staff who are generally asleep, but available to respond to unplanned events during the night
3. **Absense** is the overhead cost adjustment based on costs still present even when the person is not there and the provider cannot bill **Utilization** is costs associated with costs to maintain a licensed home such as licensing fees, etc.

It is unlikely we can get additional monies above what is already built into the DWRS framework for the following categories:

1. Costs for a provider to supply health, dental or life insurance, retirement benefits, wellness programs, etc.
2. Costs to provide access to the community or care in the home such as supplies/equipment, not available through MA, reinforcements outlined in the CSSP, expenses related to staff costs for accessing community, etc.
3. Overhead costs related to providing the service, such as conferences, fees related to licensing, background checks, city or business licenses, record retention and storage costs, training and recruitment of program staff specific to the extraordinary needs of the person
4. Standard overall costs common to all businesses, such as staff wages/benefits, banking fees, office utilities, office equipment, phone, etc.

5. Cost related to providing transportation related to the person accessing the community in either a standard or adapted program vehicle

We need to level the playing field for FRS's as we deliver the same services that CRS homes offer, have the same rules, regulations, and state mandates that CRS homes must follow, all the while providing the people we support with a family, love, continuity of care, we do it with less staffing, no corporate entity to do all the paperwork so the load is heavier because we have to do the direct support as well as the paperwork needed to stay compliant. We need a seat at the table of whatever task force or advisory committee is set up that affects us including Waiver Reimagine, the DWRS Advisory Committee, and the one being proposed in HF 3712.

If you go to a flat-rate system and you take away our ability to file exceptions on top of it, of the almost 1,800 FRS homes currently operating in Minnesota, over 70% of them will have no choice but to close. Where are the 29 people I support with my 245D going to go? What about our flagship program where the people we support come directly to us from hospitals and nursing homes that can't handle their level of care long-term? What are you going to do to accommodate the wishes of the people that want to live in a family home rather than an institutional setting when we can no longer afford to operate?

I encourage you to talk to any of the case managers or social workers I work with and they will tell you that it is FRS homes accepting people needing the highest level of care in both mental and physical health for various reasons including staff shortages, yet those providing those services are in constant fear of being shut down because of the need to hire supplemental staff to provide the services that the people we support need and deserve.

I encourage you to talk to the guardians and case managers of the people we support. Ask them what impact we have had on their lives, their extended family, and the overall community in which they chose to live. We need to be seen as adding a valuable service to the State of Minnesota, not feel as if we are stuck in a mud bog just trying to survive and worried every second that the people we love are going to be removed from our homes.

I encourage you to come see our flagship home and talk to the people we support, hear what they have to say about their previous placements compared to the care they get in our home.

Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee I want to sincerely thank you for your time and the work you do at the legislature.

Sincerely,



Sandra Donohue
Donohue Foster Services
245D License #1069139

Attachment 1

Testimonial for my experience with Sandra Donohue:

Sandy took in my dad, Richard Wagner, from a terrible nursing home that was closing down. He was her second foster client. My dad went from a place that didn't care for him at all to a place that we considered a HOME with new family. My dad was loved and adored in Sandys home.

What stood out to me most about my father's care was that he was genuinely loved. They paid attention to him. Sandy and her staff knew before the doctors that he had an infection going on and would not allow anyone to ignore them, including doctors/nurses. They would fight for his best interest. Sandy and her staff were on top of my dad's special needs— and he had many. Sandy would go with me to doctors appoints, she didn't have to, but she wanted to make sure all the Ts were crossed, and the l's were dotted. Eventually she just took him herself, which was so helpful to me so I didn't have to miss work and I trusted her completely. As the years went on and he became more fragile, Sandy and her staff fought even harder to keep him as healthy as possible. I'm talking protein shakes with nothing but the best organic nutrients to boost his health and well-being.

The care my dad received in Sandy's home is second to none. He was cherished, loved, and taken care of better than I could have ever imagined. Not only did this extend the quality of his life, it extended the years of it as well. Sandy's strength is that she doesn't always take no for an answer if she thinks there is an alternative to help care for your loved one. She will try and she will fight on behalf of those she cares for. We celebrated holidays with Sandy and her staff and other families, and when we couldn't make it, she made sure all those in her home were included in any festivities. They grilled out, order pizza in, hung out at bonfires in the backyard.

She made my dads life a life with fun – this may seem little to some, but it's a big deal for a handicap person, and it extends their life since its filled with so much more fun. She worked hard and with intention to make that happen for everyone in her home.

You or your family members will be the lucky ones, if you are able to work with Sandy in any way. She gives nothing but 150% to everything she does. And she does it with fierce loyalty, dedication, and love.

I will owe Sandy a debt of gratitude for the remainder of my life for making my dad's life bright and happy, even when it was hard for her too.

Attachment 2:

Just wanna take the time to thank everyone who reached out means alot. I also want to give thanks to [Sandra A Bathurst Donohue](#) for coming to our rescue when my dad needed you the most and opening your home to him (and us) couldn't have asked for a better home for my dad! Also giving thanks to 2 of my favorites there (even tho all are great and deserve thanks as well) [Tawnee Henry](#) and [Michelle Pastorius-Lapinski](#) for loving my dad and taking care of him and his best friend Brian for being his best bud and trouble makers!

Attachment 3

Sandy, I am so appreciative of you and your work. Thanks for being such an important person in caregiving. You are always very attentive to details and organized. You always have an open mind when collaborating with the county. You utilize past experience and networking to achieve goals for those to whom you provide services.

I am very grateful for the support you provide to your host homes. You are on top of all tasks you are responsible for, and you are very attentive to your clients' needs. You always look for ideas and innovation in favor of benefiting the clients.

The care for the clients whose cases we share is better than I could expect. You ensure the clients that live at the homes you work with are receiving the best care!

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Shumba Geleto <wecareafc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: HF 3712

My name is Shumba Geleto from White Bear Township, MN. I am writing to you in support of HF 3712. As a provider of Adult Foster care for five years, it is important to me to see this bill passed.

Being a provider of Adult Foster Care, this new flat-rate payment methodology impacts my ability to do the work greatly. Each resident I work with requires different levels of care daily. A flat rate will not accommodate each individual's needs. As a provider, the representative we elect must understand the duties and responsibilities that contribute to essential care. Fair and equal pay is determined by each resident's care needs. The flat-rate payment methodology does not grant the flexibility to bridge this gap. Many factors contribute to functioning Adult Foster Care homes which are not supported by this new bill.

Thank you Representative Nick Stumo-Lunger for your time and the important work that you do at the legislature.

Shumba Geleto, White Bear Township, MN

Re: HF 3712

Nick Stumo-Langer
Committee Administrator At Minnesota House of Representative
532 State House Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Jr. Dr.
Saint Paul, MN 55115

Sir/Madam:

My name is Tamiru Degefa and I am located in Maplewood MN. I am writing to you in support of bill **HF 3712**. As a provider and owner of a **Family Residential Services since 2019**, it is Important to me to see this bill get passed.

As I support and care for people with different kinds of disabilities in my community, I value and care for my residents as well as the job I do. As we continue to serve our community and with the challenges we have with staffing and other financial issues, the flat rate payment methodology will highly impact our ability to adequately provide care services for our residents.

This will be impacting the care we can provide and it may lead to driving us out of business. I hope you will look into this matter seriously and come up with an appropriate action plan to support us to care for our community in need of support and care.

I would like to thank all the members involved in this matter for your time and the work you do at the legislature for the benefit of our whole community.

Thanks,

Tamiru Degefa
(Owner)

Power of Grace FRS
327 ParkView Ln s.
Maplewood, MN 55119

Phone: (763) 234-9866
powerofgrace77@gmail.com

Subject: Please Support HF 3712

Dear Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee,

My name is Tariku Bashenu from Maplewood. I am writing you in support of HF 3712.

As a provider of Family Adult Foster Care for 3 years and 3 months, it's important to me to see this bill get passed.

Since I started providing care to residents, I have been providing care 24/7 and have never taken any vacation with my families since my residents are those who needs a lot of support and assistance in their daily living.

With in the last 3 years and 3 months, I have residents who were totally dependent on me for food, attending their doctor appointment, setting doctor appointment, going to bathroom to Shower, and doing Laundry and many more.

In 2020 I had a resident who had no place to live and all other providers refused to support but I brought her to my facility from a motel in Bloomington and was providing Support 1:1 24 hours but paid only for 16 hours and I did not complain about it since I am strong believer of providing support for just being human being.

The other resident I had was someone who does not properly use bathroom, does not know how to set up doctor appointment, can not use medical ride because of anxiety and cannot sit by himself for even an hour without staff support.

As I have been a family foster care provider, this bill must remain a fundamental and crucial legislative power to support the most vulnerable population being served.

There are days I provide services and support with out sleep for 26-32 hours as my residents needs support most of the days with out sleep and no vacation at all for me and my families. Our residents are vulnerable adults with physical and mental disabilities that needs my attention every minute of the day.

A flat rate framework and methodology planned will impact AFC and other healthcare providers significantly in a way that reduces healthcare quality, efficiency, sustainability, and equity for so many reasons.

Thank you very much for taking action to pass this bill. I will also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your collaboration, support, and consideration. Action on this bill will make a difference not only to AFC providers but also to other healthcare providers and service recipients.

Sincerely,



Tariku Bashenu

Nick Stumo-Langer

From: Tomas Nebiy <tomas982000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 1:33 PM
To: Nick Stumo-Langer
Subject: HF-3712

My name is Thomas Nebi and I live in Roseville MN. I am writing to you in support of HF 3712. As a provider of Adult Foster Care for nearly two years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I provided services for adults over 18 years old. The individuals I work with have so many different issues that need 24/7 care. Having a flat rate across the board will jeopardize the quality of service they receive.

I really appreciate the time and effort you put in to help us improve the quality of service we are trying to provide in a daily basis.

Thomas Nebi

Roseville MN

TUSE IRE
2389 SCHADT DR E
MAPLEWOOD MN 55119

RE- Support for Delaying Flat Rate Methodology

Attention - **Nick Stumo**

This letter is the official appeal to pass the bill that delays the provision of the flat rate methodology to serve and provide the best quality, equitable, and sustainable healthcare services in Minnesota.

As the family adult foster care provider, I have been in the managerial team in this setting for the vulnerable adult population for four years.

I am also a healthcare professional who understands the impact of public policy on health care. Public policy remains a powerful tool to address the needs of patients at the highest level by prioritizing patients' first model. It is so vital that the flat rate methodology bill be passed.

As I have been a family foster care provider, this bill must remain a fundamental and crucial legislative power to support the most vulnerable population being served.

A flat rate framework and methodology planned will impact AFC and other healthcare providers significantly in a way that reduces healthcare quality, efficiency, sustainability, and equity for the following reasons:

1. This bill will eliminate the workforce supporting the service providers.
2. Discourage AFC and other health care providers and drive the road map to business closure.
3. Increases the vulnerability of target populations- vulnerable adults, disabled elders, and disadvantaged groups.
4. Increased burden on the Department of Human Services
5. Create significant ethical issues.
6. Impact the core needs of services and needs of the most vulnerable population being served.

Thank you very much for taking action to pass this bill. I will also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your collaboration, support, and consideration. Action on this

bill will make a difference not only to AFC providers but also to other healthcare providers and service recipients.

Thank you.

Dr. Tuse Ire,