

Removing Barriers to People who have Disabilities Living in their Own Homes

SF 2974/HF 2925

People who have disabilities in Minnesota have the right to choose to live in their own homes and receive services there if they choose. Although this is the stated policy of our state, barriers remain for people to make the choice to live in their own homes. Choosing to live in your own home is made even more difficult by the current workforce shortage. This bill would remove several of those barriers so that choosing to live in your own home becomes a true choice and would address some of the workforce shortage barriers to living in your own home.

Specifically, HF 2925 would:

- **Expand access to shared services**, so people who have disabilities who need similar services can choose to share services and service providers if it works well for everyone involved. This is already permitted under Consumer-Directed Community Supports and waiver plans, and expanding it for home and community based waivers would help alleviate the workforce shortage for people who choose to live in their own homes.
- **Provide training for case management regarding care and support coordination.** People who live in their own homes need to have stronger plans in place for if support providers change throughout the week and on short notice, which is happening more often with the workforce shortage. This would give case managers more tools to work with people to develop those plans to assist them to live on their own.
- **Permit people who receive services in their own homes to appeal service terminations.** People who live in residential settings have the right to appeal service terminations, but people who live in their own homes do not currently have that right. This would address this imbalance and ensure that people living in both settings have the opportunity to ask a judge to decide if the grounds for termination have been met.

