



Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizen's with Disabilities (MNCCD) is a broad-based coalition of advocacy and provider organizations, as well as individual members, working to change public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities through building awareness, providing education, and engaging in the community.

We write to express our support of HF 2721, the CFSS/PCA Rate Framework Bill, and we wish to thank Representative Lippert for authoring this important legislation.

MNCCD has long supported and included bills to protect and strengthen the PCA program on our public policy agenda. We want to thank you for getting the framework language into statute last year and we truly appreciate the rate increase that was provided for this critical service. HF 2721 builds on those investments by including the cost components for inflationary adjustments into the rate framework.

Unlike other rate systems for disability services, the rates for PCAs do not currently adjust for inflation. Yet, the PCA service is a critical service that is accessed by 44,000 individuals across Minnesota. It is one of the most cost-effective services for older adults and people with disabilities and supports people to live in their home and community and avoid more costly congregate care settings. The PCA program is also one of the most diverse, with 62% of service recipients being Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). The majority of the workers, providing this valuable service are women and BIPOC.

With a current reimbursement rate of just \$19.60 for the PCA service, and the economic hardship that many Minnesotans are already facing, we support HF 2721 as a critical investment in order to stabilize the rates for Personal Care Assistance (PCA) services and begin to address the workforce crisis.

This bill aligns with many of MNCCD's policy principles including equity, safety, access, inclusion and individual empowerment and choice. Now more than ever, we appreciate your commitment and willingness to make investments that address the workforce crisis so that lack of staff does not further limit access to work, community and opportunity for Minnesotans who have disabilities.

Thank you for your support of HF 2721.

Sincerely,

Maren Hulden
Public Policy Co-Chair

Melissa Haley
Public Policy Co-Chair