



March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee,

**The Arc Minnesota is submitting a letter in support of HF 2666, Basic Income Grant program.**

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit organization that promotes and protects the human rights of people who have IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of inclusion and participation in their communities. We believe people who have disabilities are inherently strong, powerful, capable, and resilient.

The Arc Minnesota is pleased to express support for HF2666 sponsored by Rep. Athena Hollins that would establish the Minnesota Basic Income Grant program. This bill would give eligible participants at least \$500 per month for a minimum of 18 months. The legislation builds on successful pilot programs in Minneapolis and St Paul, and around the country that has shown positive outcomes for lower income people to stabilize their housing, pay food costs, medical costs, and establish emergency funds for unexpected expenses.

HF2666 would benefit people with disabilities who frequently have little discretionary income and could use extra income assistance. We are pleased that the bill excludes stipends from being counted as income, assets, or personal property affecting state benefit programs. The payments of at least \$500 would lift some individuals with disabilities from living in poverty and make living in the community easier.

HF 2666 will provide unrestricted cash access. The participants will decide how the funding is spent instead of having to choose from a predetermined menu that might not match priorities for recipients. Participants in pilot programs have reported greater mental health relief from the extra income, which will lead to greater self-determination for people with disabilities.

We urge the committee to pass HF 2666 and continue the progress of the bill during the 2024 legislative session.

Sincerely,

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