

May 1, 2023

Dear Chair Noor and Human Services Finance Committee Members,

I am writing today to urge you to include the TEFRA fee elimination bill (SF 1201 / HF 1434) in the Human Services Finance Omnibus Bill which is in your conference committee. This is a very important bill that needs to be included in your omnibus as it is specifically targeting families who have children under the age of 18 who are disabled and needing the highest level of care.

These families, mine included, are being taxed for simply having a child who has high medical needs. Our family already pays our own private health insurance premiums, deductibles, and copayments and then has TEFRA fees assessed on top of that, not to mention non-covered items and services which we must pay out of pocket in order to provide our children with disabilities with a chance at a good quality of life.

Families like ours are paying anywhere from a few hundred dollars a month to several thousands. For many, this means not pursuing higher education for themselves or another child, not being able to participate in community events, not having money for groceries and other bills, not being able to pay for housing, or being forced to use credit cards and loans in order to pay their TEFRA bills.

TEFRA is discriminatory and singles out families already dealing with more than typical families. The time to eliminate these fees is now, as families across our state are struggling with inflation and high costs of living.

Please include this important item in the omnibus bill and help families like mine.

Thank you,  
Heather Kainz  
7438 W Crescent Drive  
Britt, MN 55710