



**Vision:** A community where all people are fully accepted and equal in every aspect of their life.

**Mission:** We provide individualized supports to people that encourage dreams, focus on independence, and foster community connections. Supports are adaptable for each person to ensure a meaningful lifestyle for all.

January 30, 2023

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Service Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask for your support of HF 568 to increase the payment rates for intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities.

Harry Meyering Center provides residential support and services to people with disabilities in the Mankato area. We have three intermediate care facilities that are licensed to serve thirty-nine people. Currently, we provide services to thirty-one people. Although we receive several referrals weekly, we have not been accepting new individuals due to the staffing shortage. Like most businesses, we are experiencing a worker shortage. However, unlike other businesses, we cannot close for a day to allow our workers time to rest. Our program is able to continue to meet the needs of the people served because of the dedication and commitment to the individuals. They often work seven days per week and cover multiple shifts on many days.

Harry Meyering Center recently raised employee wages to attempt to attract and retain workers. HF 568 would ensure that HMC has the funds to sustain the increased wages, continue to attract competent workers, and continue to meet the needs of the people served.

Wages for direct care workers has been a topic of debate and discussion for many years. The worker shortage has been forecast for many years. However, the combination of COVID and the "Great Resignation" has had a profound impact on our industry. We have reached a crisis point in attracting and retaining workers. Minnesota has a reputation for being at the forefront of providing quality, person-centered services that enable the individuals served to live happy, fulfilled lives. I respectfully ask for the support of the legislature to pass HF 568 and continue to invest in the lives of people with disabilities.

I am happy to provide more information if needed.

Kind Regards,

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