



February 23, 2022

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

We write on behalf of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD), a broad coalition of over 30 advocacy and provider organizations working to improve the lives of people with disabilities. We write to express our support of HF 3199, the Lift the 40-Hour Cap for Parents of Minors and Spouses Bill, and we wish to thank Rep. Reyer for authoring this important legislation.

Families with children or a spouse with a disability are struggling to find staff. The workforce crisis has been made worse by COVID-19, and many parents and spouses have had to leave jobs or reduce the number of hours they are able to work outside the home to provide the care that is needed for their loved one with a disability.

Currently with the Consumer Directed Community Support (CDCS) and Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) programs there is a household cap of 40 hours a week for parents of minors and spouses. This 40-hour cap is regardless of the number of children receiving services, the number of parents able to provide care, or the number of assessed hours of care for the child or spouse.

MNCCD supports HF 3199 because it aligns with our values of individual empowerment and choice and maximizes access to community. This bill simply maximizes the support that the people already providing direct care to Minnesotans who have disabilities can provide. Paying parents of minors and spouses to for more than 40-hours of care will help with the financial struggles that many of these families face and ensure that they can continue providing this valuable service.

Passing this legislation now is more important than ever due to the ongoing pandemic and the worsening workforce crisis. Thank you for your support of HF 3199 and to Rep. Reyer for championing this bill.

Maren Hulden and Melissa Haley
MNCCD Policy Committee Co-Chairs