



March 31, 2022

Dear Chair Schultz and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Arc Northland, located in Duluth MN, in support of the task force on the subminimum wages as enacted in June of 2021.

As you know, Chair Schultz, Arc Northland provides a variety of programs and services for people with disabilities and their families living in the Arrowhead region of the state. We do not do vocational/employment services directly with people, but we do support the value in making at least minimum wage when working a job.

People with disabilities want to work, want to explore working and want to be contributing to the successes of their communities. We fully support their dreams and hopes in realizing their accomplishments through all the work that we do at Arc Northland.

We support the purpose and the work that will be completed within the task force to ensure that the information learned and shared is current and representative of the people we support. The changes that are being proposed in HF 4071 would prevent the task force to come up with a thoughtful and meaningful strategic plan taking into account all the factors involved.

I have always said that “none of us is as smart as all of us.” It is important to do the work together in coming to a solution that will work for everyone and help people with disabilities do their work and make a decent wage. The people on the task force have the expertise to move us to successful outcomes. Utilizing their talents in this way, can get us there.

Thank you for letting me share my concerns about HF 4071 and my support for the task force in its current form.

Take care,

Laurie B. Berner
Executive Director