

March 13, 2024

Re: The Arc Minnesota Letter of Support, HF 4158

Chair Noor and members of the House Human Services Finance Committee,

The Arc Minnesota strongly supports HF 4158 authored by Rep. Hicks, which makes no-cost policy improvements to the Medical Assistance for Employed People with Disabilities (MA-EPD) program.

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

For over 20 years now, The Arc Minnesota has supported policy pertaining to the MA-EPD program, which provides a pathway for people with disabilities to work while accessing critical services and supports through MA.

While this program was created to boost employment for people with disabilities, the administrative burdens are a significant barrier to employment and keep people with disabilities living in poverty. Overly burdensome administrative processes place unnecessary stress on individuals accessing the program and act as a disincentive to work, creating barriers to economic stability and deepening reliance on government programs and services.

HF 4158 will directly alleviate these bureaucratic processes and benefit working Minnesotans with disabilities in two ways, by

- shifting from a 6-month to a 12-month recertification period
- granting thirty days instead of ten days for people to submit renewal paperwork

The Arc Minnesota is grateful to Rep. Hicks for introducing this bill and graciously ask for your support. The passage of HF 4158 would represent significant progress in improving the MA-EPD program and signal your commitment to supporting the people with disabilities who make vital contributions to Minnesota's workforce and economy.

Sincerely,
Andrea Zuber, CEO

Tina Rucci, Public Policy Director

The Arc Minnesota

