

May 01, 2024

Re: The Arc Minnesota, SF 4399

Dear Chair Fischer, Chair Hoffman, and members of the committee,

The Arc Minnesota writes in support of provisions in the Human Services Policy Omnibus bill, and is grateful for the legislature's commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of people with disabilities.

We are particularly grateful for the following provisions:

- Changing the renewal period for Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD) from semi-annual to annual (lines 12.26-12.33).
- Allowing remote reassessments (lines 15.30-15.32).

The Arc Minnesota also supports the following provision in the House language:

- Changes to the MA-EPD language regarding earnings (lines 9.27-9.30 in the House version). This version is simpler than the Senate language, requiring self-employed recipients to file and pay all applicable taxes, with employers responsible for the other deductions.
- The phase-out of subminimum wage for people with disabilities (Article 3 in the House version). We are grateful for last session's historic investments in employment services and individualized supports to assist workers with disabilities in finding and retaining jobs in which they earn at least minimum wage. Those investments enabled the creation of a robust plan to increase wages for people with disabilities by moving away from subminimum wage, while supporting providers in continuing to provide needed services. **It's time to take the next step in transforming services in Minnesota by phasing out the use of 14(c) Special Wage certificates that allow people with disabilities to earn subminimum wages.**

The Arc Minnesota is grateful for the work of the Human Services Committees, and graciously ask for your support in ensuring these important provisions are passed this session.

Sincerely,

Tina Rucci

Public Policy Director, The Arc Minnesota