



February 14, 2023

To: Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee

Re: Support for HF 585

Dear Chair Noor and Committee Members,

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.

We support HF 585, legislation targeting some of the most underfunded home care services and activities. Minnesotans with disabilities rely on home care services to live in their own homes, in their communities. We must ensure as a state that these home care services are accessible to them. HF 585, which would make critical changes to the reimbursement rates for homemaker services as well as move towards establishing care coordination and care evaluation as covered home care services, is an impactful and concrete step the legislature can take to increase access to home care services. These are examples of the home care services that ensure people have the support they need to remain in their own homes, in their communities.

People with disabilities deserve to live in their own homes with consistent, stable, high-quality support staff. The current direct care workforce crisis is putting this right in jeopardy for many people with disabilities who want to live in their own homes. One of the factors contributing to the direct care workforce shortage is low wages and reimbursement rates. Addressing these particularly underfunded home care services and activities will help ensure we retain these dedicated workers.

The Arc Minnesota encourages the committee to pass HF 585 in combination with other various workforce solutions brought forward this session. Thank you, Rep. Klevorn, for carrying this bill.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Director