



House Committee on Labor, Industry, Veterans
and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
Representative Robert Ecklund, Chair
100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Ecklund and Members of the Committee:

The National Down Syndrome Society, the leading human rights organization for all individuals with Down syndrome, supports the passage of House File 439 to end the payment of subminimum wages to workers with disabilities.

By ending subminimum wage, this bill would recognize that workers with disabilities have the potential to succeed in integrated, meaningful, competitive employment settings and will get paid real wages for real work. Currently, Alaska, King County, WA, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Oregon, Reno, NV, Seattle, WA, Texas and Vermont have similar legislation in place.

With over 375 affiliate groups spanning across all 50 states, NDSS works tirelessly on the federal and state levels to break down barriers and create opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome to be included in all aspects of society and fulfill their hopes and dreams. Individuals with Down syndrome are working, getting married and integrating into their communities now more than ever. They deserve to be paid a fair wage.

We envision a world in which all people with Down syndrome have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life, realize their life aspirations and become valued members of welcoming communities. We hope that Minnesota will end sub-minimum wages, and we thank you for your leadership regarding this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Helsing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "A" and "H".

Ashley Helsing
Director of Government Relations
National Down Syndrome Society
AHelsing@ndss.org
202-766-2407