

Chairs and Conference Committee Members,

I write today in strong support of including the House position in favor of a structured, responsible phase-out of the subminimum wage in the final conference committee report.

I know that all members care deeply about improving the state of workforce equity and economic prosperity for Minnesotans with disabilities. Significant work has been invested over many years in order to ensure that the phase out of the 14C subminimum wage waiver in Minnesota currently under consideration will secure long term stability for workers with disabilities while we turn the page in our state to a future where all workers are entitled to the economic protections of at least minimum wage.

This year, you all have the opportunity to pass a historic piece of legislation that will declare that Minnesota is a state where no one's labor is worth less because of their disability. Minnesota is ready to join the growing number of states phasing out the subminimum wage while protecting employment training and workforce integration pathways for workers with disabilities. This bill was crafted with the lessons learned from missteps in policymaking experienced in some of these other states to make sure they are not repeated within this structured, responsible, person-centered legislation before you.

Thank you all for your tireless work this session and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hunter Cantrell