



Supporting a Full Array of Disability Services Options

To: Minnesota Senate HHS Reform Finance and Policy Committee

Re: Testimony related to SF 3408 Subminimum Wage

Senator Abeler and Members of the Committee.

A-Team MN is one of 21 state networks within A-Team Grassroots USA. - a national network of self-advocates and families promoting and supporting a Full Array of Disability Service Options and Choice with a call to action of: **My Work, My Home, My Life, My Choice.**

We oppose planning for the elimination of available work options certified under U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act 14(c) that provides for “special minimum” or commensurate wage. The planning responsibility adopted during the 2021 Legislature was given to a Task Force.

That taskforce with its clearly stated purpose is planning for something that:

- Ignores the informed choice and person-centered plans of nearly 6,000 Minnesotans who choose a center-based 14c certified job.
- To be a member of the taskforce you must commit to eliminating the work option.
- There is no representation on the task force of those most affected by the elimination of 14(c).
- There is no study of the efficacy of 14(c) that justifies its elimination. What we do know is that many people with disabilities in states that have eliminated 14(c) work options are no longer earning a wage.

A-Team Minnesota supports SF3408 – We appreciate Senator Utke’s support to modify the purpose and the membership of the above-mentioned task force. Modification of the purpose presents a more positive direction in a planning process. SF3408 adds representation of those most affected.

We further support a comprehensive examination of all existing available job training and work options for people with disabilities.

Thank you for considering A-Team Minnesota self-advocates and families concerns.

A-Team MN Board of Directors
Jim Clapper
Sue Hankner
Margie Sillery