



March 15, 2023

To: Chair Cwodzinski and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee

RE: SF 2500

Dear Chair Cwodzinski and Senate Education Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) writes to share our strong support of SF 2500. MNCCD is a broad-based coalition of advocacy and provider organizations and individuals working to change public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities through building awareness, providing education, and engaging in the community.

Thank you for hearing SF 2500, which would allow high school students to earn elective credits by working in caring professions.

We support SF 2500 as it aims to help alleviate the workforce crisis by incentivizing high school students to choose this rewarding work. Long-term care and disability services providers are competing with several other industries for workers. By allowing high school students to earn credits by filling critical roles, we would be introducing them to the caring professions, teaching them about empathy for the elderly and disabled and allowing them to participate in a vital sector caring for the state's most vulnerable. By passing this bill, we will also show the younger generation a potential career path they may not have considered otherwise.

While we know this will not solve the workforce crisis, it will incentivize a new demographic of workers to enter this important field. Thank you, Sen. Hoffman, for carrying this bill. We urge the committee to support SF 2500.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Co-Chair
MNCCD

Trevor Turner
Public Policy Co-Chair
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