



**Health & Human Services**

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March 15, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of support of Senate File 2088. Wright County supports Anoka County and the bill to allow counties to provide in-house training for some assistance programs. This pilot will provide counties the option to train new staff in a timely manner to meet the needs of the upcoming unwinding of the Public Health Emergency as it applies to public assistance programs.

Wright County like many other counties across the state have experienced high rates of staff turn-over which has resulted in an unprecedented number of vacancies needing to be filled. We had a time period where due to various circumstances where we did not have staff who were trained in Family Cash or Childcare Assistance programs. When we tried to get staff into training, either DHS was not offering training in those programs, or the classes were full. Counties are experiencing difficulties hiring qualified staff that, added to the inability to get staff into DHS trainings has made it impossible to meet State and Federal timelines for our programs.

Counties with an existing training plan or access to an existing training plan should be allowed to pilot those training programs in an attempt to fill this void. This request comes after many attempts to hire and train staff only to find counties in a position that fails to improve. I look forward to this pilot program being approved and counties being allowed to train staff so our essential services can be delivered to clients timely. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Johnson".

Kimberly Johnson  
Financial Services Manager  
Wright County, Minnesota