



February 13, 2023

To: Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

RE: SF 1272

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) writes to share our support of SF 1272. 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. We are very supportive of SF 1272, which would bring needed updates and reforms to Minnesota's Medicaid program for Employed People with Disabilities (MA-EPD).

SF 1272 aligns with MNCCD's policy principles of promoting individual empowerment and choice, as well as improving essential supports and services. Thanks to our MA-EPD program, people who have disabilities can work and use their income to support their families all while receiving coverage from Medicaid for the disability related supports they need. This program is an essential tool for ensuring that Minnesotans with disabilities can bring their talents and experiences to Minnesota's workforce and for ensuring that Minnesota works towards the goal of full inclusion of people who have disabilities.

MA-EPD has been a critical part of our disability supports for over 20 years, and it is time for an update. SF 1272 includes a set of changes—based on the lived experiences of people who use the program—that will make it easier for people with disabilities to work. The proposal will also reduce administrative barriers and burdens on the people accessing the services as well as the state and lead agencies. These improvements will make it possible for more people with disabilities to work, retain their earnings, and end the cycle of poverty so many people with disabilities face. These changes will likely increase the number of people who have disabilities in the workforce, potentially in areas where Minnesota is experiencing workforce shortages. SF 1272 is a smart set of changes to an important program.

We urge the committee to support SF 1272.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Co-Chair

Trevor Turner
Public Policy Co-Chair