

February 13, 2023

Re: Support for SF 902 and SF 903

To: Members of the Senate Human Services Committee



Dear Chair Hoffman and Committee Members,

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

We support SF 902 and SF 903 which would make necessary and important changes to rates for certain in-home services (i.e. homemaking, home health services, and in-home nursing services) and move towards establishing care coordination and evaluation as a covered service. These are examples of services that ensure people have the support they need to remain in their own homes, in their communities. Minnesotans with disabilities rely on these services and we must ensure as a state that they are accessible to them.

People with disabilities deserve to live in their own homes with consistent, stable, high-quality support staff. The current direct care workforce crisis is putting this right in jeopardy for many people with disabilities who want to live in their own homes. One of the factors contributing to the direct care workforce shortage is low wages and reimbursement rates. Increasing and stabilizing rates for home care services will help ensure we retain these dedicated workers through wage increases.

The Arc Minnesota encourages the committee to pass both SF 902 and SF 903 in combination with various workforce solutions brought forward this session. Thank you, Chair Hoffman and Sen. Mann, for carrying these bills.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Director