



February 15, 2023

RE: Support for SF 1597

Dear Chair Hoffman and Human Services Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) is a broad coalition of over 30 advocacy and provider organizations along with individual members, working to change public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Thank you for hearing SF 1597, authored by Sen. Abeler, which will make modifications to the current PCA statute by add driving to the definition of Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs). We are writing in strong support of this bill.

The Personal Care Assistant (PCA) service helps thousands of people with disabilities and older adults to remain in their home and community. This bill will actually allow them to access their community by allowing the PCA to drive the person accessing the service while allowing the PCA provider to bill for that time. Currently, this is not allowed. Service recipients who have adaptive vehicles, but are unable to drive them, are not allowed to have their PCA drive them to work, volunteer, or other actives. Driving the service recipient is allowed on other similar services.

A bill was passed two years ago that added driving to the Statute language for Community First Services and Supports, but we do not know when that program will start. When it does it will slowly roll out, therefore we need to address the present needs of individuals accessing this program and add this language to the PCA Statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of SF 1597 and thank Sen. Abeler for authoring this bill.

Sincerely,

Julia Page, MNCCD Policy Co-Chair

Trevor Turner, MNCCD Policy Co-Chair