



March 15, 2023

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

RE: SF 1637

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) writes to share our strong support of SF 1637. 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 1637, which would bring equity to Minnesota's Medical Assistance (MA) program.

SF 1637 aligns with MNCCD's policy principle of improving essential supports and services. This proposal will make MA more accessible for those who need it while also ensuring people are not struggling financially. People should not be forced to live in poverty just to access the supports and services they need to survive or be supported in their communities.

Currently, there are very low qualifying income and asset standards for MA. These are requirements that impoverish people while they are under a constant threat of losing their essential supports and services through Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). This bill would increase the qualifying income standard to 133% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) and qualifying asset standard to \$20,000 for individuals and \$40,000 for married couples. These increases will improve the lives of people accessing MA and make for a more equitable program—more in line with our state's values. These changes will also mean more money for Minnesotans with disabilities to meet their everyday needs, saving for unexpected costs, and provide more opportunity for them to thrive.

Thank you, Sen. Fateh, for carrying this important bill. We urge the committee to support SF 1637.

Sincerely,

**Julia Page**  
*Public Policy Co-Chair*  
MNCCD

**Trevor Turner**  
*Public Policy Co-Chair*  
MNCCD