



March 27, 2023

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

RE: SF 2944

Dear Chair Hoffman and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (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. MNCCD would like to express support for SF 2944 which establishes and funds a Direct Care Service Corps pilot project.

The direct care workforce shortage in Minnesota has deeply affected many lives and families. Many have been forced into settings not equipped to handle individuals living with complex disabilities and some have even died as a result of this shortage. We need innovative solutions to address this shortage. The Direct Care Service Corps pilot project seeks to help with the workforce shortage, and individuals living in the community with complex healthcare needs, and students.

MNCCD's legislative agenda is guided by a set of principles that ensure legislation is accessible, equitable, inclusive, and empowering. The Direct Care Service Corps pilot project provides Disabled people with the choice and control over the support services they require. Access to these essential supports ensures that people with disabilities can live, work, and participate in their communities. The Direct Care Service Corps pilot project provides a solution to the workforce crisis in a just, equitable way. Not only does this pilot program provide people with disabilities the supports and services they deserve, but it gives students with the opportunity to work and gain experience while in school.

MNCCD proudly supports this initiative and efforts by the Metropolitan Council for Independent Living. We urge the committee to please support SF 2944. Thank you, Sen. Abeler, for carrying this bill.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Co-Chair
MNCCD

Trevor Turner
Public Policy Co-Chair
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