

Honorable Senator John F. Hoffman,

I am sending you a letter regarding SF 2934 and the Governor's proposal to move FRS (family Residential Services) homes from the current framework rate to a flat tiered rate as of 1/1/2026.

My name is Maren Scherber, my son is Charlie, and he has Down's Syndrome with dementia, and severe OCD behaviors that can lead to physical aggression. He lives in a family foster home in Wright County. He has lived with this family since 2010. This home is loving and has helped Charlie remain functional and feel loved and happy. They help to keep his behaviors under control and work with his Dr. to find the right medications for his behaviors so that he can enjoy life. They were able to identify that he became lactose intolerant and not just soiling his pants due to OCD issues. This is huge as taking him home knowing he would have accidents was difficult. They were also able to identify how severe his OCD is that it truly impacts all of his life and that combined with dementia makes his world very confusing. This family home helps him feel loved and happy by providing consistency in his day.

Because of Charlie's needs he has an exception this means he has more needs than most and staff must always know what is going on with him for safety and to avoid physical aggression issues. If his home moves to a flat rate the home may not stay open as his rate would be 45% less. That would be devastating to him and us as his family. We like how the family home operates and puts our minds at ease that he is in the best place for him. We do not want to fear that he will have to move.

Please do not move FRS homes to a flat rate as stated in the Governor's budget proposal.

Maren Scherber, mom
St. Michael, MN