

Senator Hoffman and members of the Human Services Committee:

I want to thank you for including SF 925 in your omnibus bill, which increases the number of paid hours a parent or spouse can provide to a person receiving personal care services through consumer-directed community supports (CDCS), and community first services and supports (CFSS). As a parent of not one, but two boys that suffer from a rare, genetic, progressive, and terminal disease called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, passage of this legislation this year, will give me the opportunity to dial back at my regular job so that I can provide personal assistance services to my children under CDCS and live a more desired lifestyle for my kids and for my family.

The disability services workforce shortage has left families in extremely challenging situations when it comes to finding personal care staff. Raising the cap on the number of hours a family member can provide paid personal care services would reduce this stress and help ensure people receiving services have a reliable person to care for them. In addition to the workforce shortage issue, many parents and spouses would prefer to care for a family member when they know their loved ones have an abbreviated life expectancy.

Thank you to the authors of SF 925, Senators Boldon, Abeler, Maye Quade and Mann, along with Chair Hoffman who included this in the Caregivers Stabilization Act he authored and, in this Committee Omnibus bill before you today.

Passage of these provisions would be so helpful to many Minnesota families with loved ones with disabilities, including mine, and your support and recognition of this need is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for advancing this provision that is so important to families with loved ones with significant disabilities, and for the opportunity to testify.

Sarah Kasner

www.kasnerskickduchenne.org