



8406 Sunset Road NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
763-786-8334
info@rise.org



March 1, 2023

Dear members of the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee:

I am writing in support of the bill SF 1271 to increase the rates for extended employment services and stabilize the program.

Rise is a nonprofit organization providing services to Minnesotans with disabilities and mental illness. We serve over 2,500 people per year and have twenty-six locations. In disability services specifically, we work with hundreds of people who receive supports through the Extended Employment Program each year. This vital program allows us to provide ongoing services that support people in retaining employment. Employment is not only important to people with disabilities for the needed income, but also allows provides them opportunities to socialize and integrate into the community and gives people a sense of self-efficacy.

This proposed legislation increases the sustainability of the Extended Employment program by adjusting the reimbursement rate to be more responsive to current market trends and therefore increasing access to this service. Providers like Rise need to be able to provide competitive staff wages to continue to deliver services like this one.

Rise enthusiastically supports the passage of SF 1271. We hope that you will approve this important legislation.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Noren'.

Lynn Noren
President & CEO