

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Alicia Olson from Zimmerman . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

My name is Alicia Olson from Zimmerman. I am writing you in support of SF 3841. As a provider of Adult Foster Care for 16 years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I provide care to one individual in my home with the focus on individuals with profound and reoccurring mental health issues as well as physical and medical ailments that make it unsafe for them to live independently. I provide a family atmosphere, filling a void for those who haven't known what a loving family feels like allowing them to heal life long trauma.

Because of the safe and loving environment, much healing has happened here over my years of service. Something that wouldn't be possible in other spaces because of the consistent level of care provided by myself and one other.

Due to the health of my current client, they are unable to work. That means they are limited to their personal needs funds for all community outings, special snacks, personal care items, clothing, gifts etc. That is obviously not enough and thus means I as a provider spend substantial amounts of money to ensure a quality of life for them that they deserve to life. This is something I will not be able to continue with the proposed budget cuts. If I'm even able to stay open with the proposed rates. I understand we need to shift how we pay RFS providers, that a lot has been poured into this new methodology. However, the rates are unrealistic and will be catastrophic to a large amount of people as homes will close, removing an entire option of housing. An option that is valuable and needs to be seen as such.

Thank you for your time and commitment to seeing the value in this population and the work that providers do.

Sincerely,

Alicia Olson  
Olson Homes  
25844 10th st w  
Zimmerman, MN 55398-8796

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Daniel & Jacqueline Quiram from Long Lake . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

My spouse and I have been Family Residential service providers for 12 years. I grew up in a family that provided family foster care. My spouse has worked in the human services field for over 40 years. Our combined experience in this field allowed us to take on a more challenging population. It is imperative that family providers are allowed some additional time to show how the flat rate, as currently proposed, will force family providers out.

The environment of a family atmosphere gave our individuals the stability and consistency they need. The staffing crisis that the human services field is currently experiencing for the Direct Support Professional role makes consistency almost nonexistent in the individuals' lives. This unpredictability of who they can rely on, on a day to day basis has an extremely negative effect on the individual's quality of services and their quality of living. Whenever we had staff call in sick my spouse and I were always there to fill in where needed. Again, offering some consistency in the resident's life. If the flat rate goes into effect, family residential services will most likely become nonexistent. What will happen to all the people currently being served, where will they move to and what is the impact on them?

As family providers we are always available it is a 24/7 commitment. The level of care our individuals require, also make it necessary to hire outside help. The flat rate would not leave income to hire outside assistance and therefore would not have the means to continue this care. Many of us have hired accountants to help us with more accurate cost reporting, we have many of the same expenses as corporate and these expenses are on going. If on a flat rate we will be forced out and this will have a negative impact to the people served.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address our concerns and thank you for the service you provide to the citizens of Minnesota.

Jacqueline & Daniel Quiram  
Long Lake, MN

Sincerely,

Daniel & Jacqueline Quiram  
James L Falk  
1800 Orchard Ln  
Long Lake, MN 55356-4514

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Sarah Jewell from Avon . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

As a provider of adult foster care for individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities, it is very important that this bill gets passed.

We have been doing adult foster care for over 20 years. We help adults with disabilities to live full and independent lives on a hobby farm outside of St. Cloud, MN. If the flat rate is implemented, it will result in us having to possibly close down or cut beds down because the funding will not be enough to cover all the costs and expenses of running a home and remaining in compliance with all of the Minn. Stat. 245D rules.

Thank for your attention to this and for your support to ensure we don't have to close or cut down the amount of beds we offer in our home. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jewell  
Jewell Family Foster Care  
33294 112th Avenue Avon Mn  
Avon, MN 56310-9684

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Christie Martin from Princeton . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

My name is Christie Martin from Milaca, MN. I am writing you in support of SF 3841. As a provider of Princeton,MN for 8 years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I run an adult foster care home in Princeton, MN caring for 4 adults. The flat rate payment methodology would impact our ability to provide adequate cares for our clients. The existing responsibilities we already contend with require my support for this bill. This bill will help us support or clients without costing us our homes and the ability to care for those we love. We have a high level of difficulty home that requires us to hire additional staffing to care for the needs of each individual client.

Thank you so much for your time and the work you do at the legislature.

Christie Martin

Princeton MN

Sincerely,

Christie Martin

Lifeworks Care LLC

507 6th ave s

Princeton, MN 55371-2216

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Deborah Hyde from Zimmerman . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

As a provider of Adult Family Foster Care for the past 5 years in Zimmerman, Mn. It is important to me that this bill get passed. I am in support of this bill.

We have an adult family foster care which provides needed support for the high need mental health community. One of our residents has been in and out of group home settings and hospitals. The last time she was released from a hospital for her mental health issues, it took over 200 phone calls to get her housed. The flat rate methodology will impact my ability to do this work. We have a lot of daily things we must do to keep our residents stable in their mental health. The flat rate methodology will likely cause our home to close and our paid staff to seek other employment. Heartbreaking to think of that.

Thank you so much for your time and your careful consideration of my concerns . I appreciate the work you do, Thank you

Sincerely,

Deborah Hyde  
27818 Lake Diann Rd.  
Zimmerman, MN 55398-9233

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Frank Sullivan from Maple Lake . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

Adult Foster Care

We are a 24 hour family adult foster care home. We care for our resident line they are our own family day and night. It's takes an additional 8-10 hours/day for one or the other of us plus food, travel, etc. if a flat rate is instituted we would not be able to continue providing this service. It would be sad.

Thank you for your time and advocacy on behalf of those less fortunate than us and in need of living assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank Sullivan  
Frank & Mary Sullivan  
6647 Gowan Ave NW  
Maple Lake, MN 55358-2418

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Roxanne Senne from Oronoco . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

As a provider of Family Adult Foster Care (245d) in Rochester, MN area for the past 30 years, it is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I have had multiple adult foster care residents living in my home at one time and I love helping each one of them with their daily activities and challenges. Each of these residents is individually different in their own needs and the time and effort each may require. A flat rate system would not take this into effect and would not seem fair to the providers that take on residents with higher needs. It is very important that this bill be passed so this can be addressed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input and for all you do in the legislature. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Senne  
Roxanne's Adult Foster Care  
6535 Cty Rd 158 NW  
Oronoco, MN 55960

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Sharon Morey from Minneapolis . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

As a provider for Family Foster Care Provider for 14 years, I am asking for your support for SF 3841.

This flat rate payment mythology would negatively impact my ability to continue in this field of work.

Thank you for supporting HF 3712 and for the work you do at the legislature level of government.

Sincerely,

Sharon Morey  
Joseph's Chateau  
12715 42nd PI N  
Minneapolis, MN 55442-2350



Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Tariku Bashenu from Saint Paul . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

As a provider of Family Adult Foster Care for 3 years and 3 months, it's important to me to see this bill get passed.

Since I started providing care to residents, I have been providing care 24/7 and have never take any vacation with my families since my residents are those who needs a lot of support and assistance in their daily living.

With in the last 3 years and 3 months, I have residents who were totally dependent on me for food, attending their doctor appointment, setting doctor appointment, going to bathroom to Shower, and doing Laundry.

In 2020 I had a resident who had not place to live and all other providers refused to support but I brought her to my facility from a motel in Bloomington and was providing Support 1:1 24 hours but paid only for 16 hours and I did not complain about it since I am strong believer of providing support for just being human being.

The other resident I had was someone who does not properly use bathroom, does not know how to set up doctor appointment, can not use medical ride because of anxiety and cannot sit by himself for even an hour without staff support.

As I have been a family foster care provider, this bill must remain a fundamental and crucial legislative power to support the most vulnerable population being served.

There are days I provide services and support with out sleep for 26-32 hours as my residents needs support most of the days with out sleep and no vacation at all, A flat rate framework and methodology planned will impact AFC and other healthcare providers significantly in a way that reduces healthcare quality, efficiency, sustainability, and equity for the following reasons

Thank you very much for taking action to pass this bill. I will also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your collaboration, support, and consideration. Action on this bill will make a difference not only to AFC providers but also to other healthcare providers and service recipients.

Sincerely,

Tariku Bashenu  
Tariku Bashenu AFC  
1068 Dennis Street South  
Saint Paul, MN 55119-3571

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Brian Beert from Saint Peter . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

I have recently obtained my Family Residential Services provider license in 2023. It is important to me that this bill be passed. The family providers should be allowed an opportunity to provide evidence of the harmful impact a flat rate would have to the family providers.

I am new as a family residential adult foster care provide. In order to meet the required Statutes 245D.081 subdivision 2, paragraph (b,) I must hire staff to perform the duties of the Designated Coordinator and Manager. If the current proposed flat rate goes into effect I would no longer be provided the funding to hire for either of these positions and would be disqualified from providing services.

The individual I care for has made many improvements in the short time he has resided with me. When he arrived he was so bent over he could hardly walk. His body composition has improved exponentially his family and team is thrilled with his progress. I feel without my continuous daily guidance and encouragement he would digress. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching this gentlemen's self esteem flourish. It would be a great disappointment if I would no longer be afforded this opportunity to continue with his cares. If this bill is not passed and the flat rate takes effect I would be forced out of providing foster care services and this individual would have to move out of what he thought was his forever home. Please allow the family providers additional time to advocate and supply supporting evidence as to why the flat rate would have a drastic effect on the people we serve.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do. Please consider this bill.  
Brian Beert, Saint Peter.

Sincerely,

Brian Beert  
The Beert Residence  
39105 436th St  
Saint Peter, MN 56082-5077

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Troy Ostrowski from Saint Cloud . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

I am a family foster care provider in Sherburne county for 20 plus years. I am writing you this letter in support to SF 3841. It is important to me as a provider for this bill to pass.

We have chosen to open our home and spend personal family time to help individuals with disabilities have good quality of life.

The majority of every day is spent assisting the guys either with personal hygiene, learning daily living skills, appts, going out in the community etc.

The assistance vary with each individual. What is easy for some, is more complex and takes longer for others. A day for 1 individual consists of multiple reminders & follow up on a task, communicating when a job is well done or if they need to work on certain areas, working on a behavior-first getting through the behavior than sitting down and discussing it when a person is ready. Than there is time spent scheduling appts, taking an individual to their appts (which for some is many), discussions with case managers &/or guardians, ensuring medications are taken on time & correct dosage, ensuring that all state & county paperwork is done daily, monthly, and annually.

Just a reminder that most providers do have staff that we pay. The hourly wage that is paid to keep good employees would not even be covered by proposed cuts, let alone how it will affect the individuals we help in my home.

Thank you for taking the time to read and take my letter into consideration in making your decision.

Sincerely,

Troy Ostrowski  
Haven Country Care Home  
2153 45th St. SE  
Saint Cloud, MN 56304-8549

Dear Chair Hffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Erika Jane Anes from Rochester . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

Being a caregiver gives me joy and an opportunity to impact the lives of the person I served in my own home. My family had been supportive including my children ages 21 years old to as young as 8years old. Our family dynamic is unique as they have been an extended family to us. Not only we provide an exceptional care to meet their physical health and mental needs but as well as giving them a much better quality of life in our home and in the community. Individuals that had thought would die from illness had become healthy and independent with a very minimal hospital admission and emergency department trip. We had taken them to family trips, community outings from shopping to dining out. Things that these people did not have an opportunity if they live in a nursing home. They have given more freedom and at the same time are getting the assistance they need from medication administration to helping them in their instrumental daily activity.

I have seen how much they have improved in spite of the limited financial resources they had because of the support they get. They were able to accomplish life goals that they never thought they could such as employment opportunity, going to places like Winona, Duluth, Chicago and Florida. They were able to enjoy things that they never had with their own family as simple as eating out in a buffet. These changes will help us to continue to provide for the individuals we served at home and at the same time be able to pay for our bills and the events that they were not able to pay from their own pocket including over the counter medication and supplies. I implore that the Senate and the people would see from our end that we do not make money doing this. We serve because we need to help people that have luck out and has nowhere to go. A second chance in life to have a better quality of life and most importantly have a family support that they need when their own is not around.

I thank the Senate for the time and considerations to our request. And the AARM for advocating for the Family Foster Care providers

Sincerely,

Erika Jane Anes  
Erika Anes Family Adult Foster Care  
3553 8 1/2 st NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-6646

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Service Committee:

My name is Kristin Zachman from Delano . I am writing you in support of SF 3841.

As a provider of Adult Foster Care/Community Residential Services for over 15 years, It is important to me to see this bill get passed.

I currently take care of 2 people, one with high medical needs and the other with high behaviors. I provide 24/7 365 days a year care for these individuals. I have manage to improve their health and quality of their lives. They have lived with me for 10 & 7 years. If the flat rate goes into affect I would receive only \$12.00 an hour for each persons rate. This amount would not allow me to continue to provide services to them. Please vote to pass this bill so that a better philosophy for paying us can be to stay on the current framework rate as we do same work as a corporate home.

Thank you Chair Fischer and Members of the Human Service Policy Committee for your time and the work you do at the legislature.

Sincerely,

Kristin M Zachman  
Delano, MN

Sincerely,

Kristin Zachman  
4044 ECKERT AVE SE  
Delano, MN 55328-5234

