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Dear committee,

I am writing to support the Minnesota-grown movement of people with disabilities and allies seeking to end sub-minimum wage exceptions for Minnesota workers with disabilities. No worker should be paid less than the minimum. This subminimum wage system traps people in poverty based on disability status, which is discriminatory.

As a disabled person who has the privilege of higher education and competitive employment, I also see how racism, classism, and lack of access lead to disproportionate marginalization of disabled people who have intellectual disabilities and people who are experiencing multiple marginalization.

I have seen from both family members and community members working in subminimum wage how subminimum wage impacts how we value people with disabilities in the community, their choices for housing, the economy at large, and self-worth.

I am impressed by the thoughtful work that advocates have been arranging to ensure that employment opportunities do not decrease for disabled people. I am encouraged by the states and businesses that made this change years ago, having recently lived in New Hampshire for a year before returning to Minnesota.

Please consider how Minnesota can show its commitment to all citizens, including people with disabilities, who enrich our state. Pay workers what the government has agreed should be the minimum.

I appreciate your consideration,

Jay Wilson