



March 11, 2024

The Honorable John A. Hoffman  
Chair, Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
2111 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jim Abeler  
Ranking Minority Member, Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
2207 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Legal Aid letter regarding SF 4726**

Dear Chair Hoffman, Ranking Minority Member Abeler, and Members of the Committee:

Overall, we are optimistic that making DCT its own agency will ultimately improve services for Minnesotans with disabilities. However, we have two concerns we thank you for the opportunity to share with you.

**Expedited rulemaking (lines 26.7-26.17)**

The current proposed legislation permits DCT to adopt rules using the expedited rulemaking process in Minn. Stat. § 14.389 until July 1, 2030. Notice and comment rulemaking is essential to ensure that all voices are heard in the governance of DCT, and that the need for and reasonableness of the rules are established as required by Chapter 14. The formal rulemaking process gives members of the public an opportunity to submit comments and testimony about the governance of DCT and will likely improve how DCT functions. Given that existing rules will remain in effect while new rules are adopted, the provision allowing for expedited rulemaking is unnecessary and has the potential to exclude valuable voices from the governance of DCT.

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March 11, 2024

**Add an advisory committee or other way for more members of the public to add input**

DCT should make other efforts to ensure that the public can influence DCT's practices and procedure, especially if the expedited rulemaking provision is not deleted. The proposed legislation should include language that requires DCT to establish advisory committees on various issues related to DCT governance. *See, e.g.,* Minn. Stat. § 62V.04, subd. 13 (requiring the MNsure Board to have advisory committees). Advisory committees are essential to ensure that the DCT board receives input from a variety of diverse perspectives.

Thank you for allowing us to submit input on SF 4726.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Purrington  
Legal Director/Deputy Director  
Minnesota Disability Law Center



Ellen Smart  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project

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