

March 20, 2024

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Committee:

On behalf of ARRM and our more than 185 provider organizations, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the Delete Everything Amendment to SF 4399, the Human Services Policy Omnibus bill.

This session, ARRM brought forward many initiatives aimed at improving and streamlining services for people with disabilities, making policy adjustments to support workforce growth, and removing regulations that prevent people from getting the services that they need when they need them and where they choose to receive them.

To that end, we are happy to see some of those proposals included in the Human Services Omnibus bill and would like to take this opportunity to highlight the sections of the bill that we are in particular support of.

Beginning with Article 1, sections 1 and 2, we want to thank the Chair for including language exempting both 245D and 144G homes from municipal rental licensing requirements. These requirements are redundant to state and county requirements and can be used as a tool to discriminate against people with disabilities. By eliminating the ability for a city to require a rental license for these homes, you are helping to ensure that people have the right and choice to live in whatever community they want.

We would also like to highlight the provisions in Article 1, sections 3 through 7. These important changes made within 245D make sensible changes to workforce qualifications for the Designated Coordinator, Designated Manager, and allowable job duties for 16 and 17-year-old staff while maintaining high safety standards. These changes will support providers in hiring the right person for the job, not just the person that meets the qualifications listed in statute.

ARRM would also like to take this opportunity to highlight two provisions that are not included in the bill that we are hoping for the opportunity to work with the committee further on.

First, ARRM brought forward legislation this session that would allow for Out-of-Home Respite for children in an unlicensed setting (SF 3809). This provision has been a priority of ARRM for the last four years and we are hopeful that we will be able to see it move forward this session. The loss of respite options has contributed to some families going into crisis and having to seek other options to get support for their child and the family. Expanding options for Out-of-Home Respite will support families in finding options for their children, in their own communities, that are safe and comfortable.



Finally, we want to highlight legislation we brought forward that sets clear timelines and parameters for the approval, or denial, of assistive technology in the support of people with disabilities (SF 3736). ARRM has been a champion of the advancement and expansion of technology options for people with disabilities, and we are advocating for the inclusion of legislation that would address potential barriers and obstacles that could prevent or delay the review of technology requests.

Thank you again to the Chair and committee members for the opportunity to provide comments on the Human Services Omnibus Policy bill, and for your thoughtful consideration of all the proposals ARRM brought forward this session. We are grateful for the leadership of the Chair and committee members in developing meaningful policy changes that impact people with disabilities and their service providers. We look forward to working collaboratively as we move through the rest of the session.

Sara Grafstrom  
Senior Director of State and Federal Policy



(651) 291-1086



[info@arrm.org](mailto:info@arrm.org)



[www.arrm.org](http://www.arrm.org)



860 Blue Gentian Road, Suite 190  
Eagan, MN 55121