

March 8, 2024

Dear Senators,

ARRM would like to express its support for SF1009.

As you may know, ARRM is a trade association of residential service providers, providing services through the four disability waivers and supporting people in a variety of different living environments, from four-person Community Residential Settings to individuals' own homes. Our members provide support through a variety of different services including 24-hour daily services, to unit based services that may be provided only a few hours a week.

It has only been a few years since the Integrated Community Supports (ICS) service was introduced for people on the four disability waivers who live in provider-controlled settings that offer more independence than the typical group home or congregate setting. In that time, providers have expressed frustration that the service does not include nursing services in the rate framework. Even people who choose to live in arrangements that promote supported independence can have significant medical needs that require nursing oversight, if even for just a few hours a week. In these cases, it is most efficient and effective when the ICS service provider can also provide the nursing support.

The alternative is for the individual to hire private-duty nursing on their own, which in many cases, the ICS provider would assist them with. This option would be much more costly, and less well coordinated with other supports than if the ICS provider could also provide the nursing support.

We urge your support of SF1009 to help this new service evolve to support people in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Sara Grafstrom', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Sara Grafstrom
Senior Director of State and Federal Policy