



April 3, 2024

Sen. John Hoffman, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2111
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for S.F. 1009 (Fateh) & Nursing in ICS Program

Dear Chair Hoffman and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

The Residential Providers Association of Minnesota (RPAMN) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade association that represents small, residential customized living and waivers service providers in Minnesota. The majority of RPAMN members are BIPOC-owned, culturally specific service providers who might not otherwise be engaged in the policy development and legislative processes.

Since 2021, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has encouraged RPAMN members to consider Integrated Community Supports (ICS) as an alternative to the customized living settings they have historically operated. While many RPAMN members have been willing to transition, they are in need of support in navigating such a transition. The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$5.45 million in 2023 to support small, assisted living providers seeking to transition from customized living to Community Residential Settings (CRS) or ICS. However, DHS has yet to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for those funds despite the timeline for the CRS moratorium exception having passed and DHS's stated desire to limit future ICS setting applications. As you know, DHS reported a "low" utilization of the ICS program on February 9, 2024.

RPAMN believes that one contributing factor to the "low" utilization of ICS is a programmatic flaw which includes no coverage for nursing services in the ICS program. That is why we are writing you to express our support for SF 1009 which would allow nursing services in the ICS program. In addition to other programmatic concerns, the lack of coverage for nursing services in the ICS program creates a barrier for transitioning individuals who have historically received customized living services into these settings. It makes providers more cautious in evaluating and accepting potential residents from the case managers as they fear not having the resources or reimbursement needed to meet their needs.

Thank you for your work in this committee to improve the ICS program so that more Minnesotans with disabilities can live in their community with access to the services they need.

Sincerely,

Zahnia Harut, President
Residential Provider Association of Minnesota