



April 17, 2024

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Committee,

We are thankful for your ongoing efforts to build a human services budget that will promote the health and well-being of all Minnesotans. **We write to you today to express our strong support of a provision in Senate File 5335 allowing for disability waiver services during acute care hospital stays (Article 1, Section 25).**

In March of 2020, the federal CARES Act was passed which included a provision authorizing states to reimburse certain home and community-based Medicaid services during short-term hospital stays. During the 2021 legislative session, many of our organizations successfully worked together in support of legislation directing Minnesota's Department of Human Services to develop this new covered service. We are grateful for the advancement of this important issue in Senate File 5335, and we urge its passage this legislative session.

Many providers of disability services already provide this support due to the overwhelming benefits: more successful hospital stays, direct care staff learning from hospital staff the cares needed for successful transition to home, and decreased fear and stress for patients. However, it is increasingly difficult to provide this support when the service is not reimbursed, especially during a severe workforce shortage. Creating a reimbursement pathway, as proposed in this bill, will protect this essential support, improve collaboration between individuals receiving care and their providers, and help people receive person-centered, continuous, and culturally responsive care.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support of direct support in hospitals.

Sincerely,

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Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

Dena Belisle  
Minnesota First Provider Alliance

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