



Honorable Chair Senator Melissa Wiklund
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
March 4th, 2025

Supporting SF 1175 – Senator Boldon

Chair Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

The Minnesota Council on Disability firmly believes that no family should ever have to worry about whether they will get insurance coverage for their child's lifesaving therapy. That is why we enthusiastically support SF 1175, an innovative piece of legislation, that would streamline our state's healthcare system. This bill will expand the hospital presumptive eligibility process to include infants who receive a positive newborn screening, those who are on the Social Security Administration's Compassionate Care Allowance, and adults who require a disability determination to be discharged from a hospital.

The hospital presumptive eligibility process allows hospitals to enroll patients in Medical Assistance or CHIP temporarily while a full application is being processed. This ensures that patients can start receiving coverage and the necessary care without delays. For children with conditions on the newborn screening panel, early intervention is especially critical and can reduce the likelihood of adverse health outcomes and disabilities in the long run. Additionally, for adults who are staying in the hospital, receiving a presumptive eligibility determination allows them to get discharged and begin accessing home and community-based supports. This not only improves the patient's quality of life but reduces the strain on the healthcare system.

Overall, the bill will result in immediate access to care for infants with the most severe conditions, reduce costs for the healthcare system by ensuring that patients can avoid the most serious health complications, reducing burdens on hospitals by freeing up space and improving patient flow, streamlining the MA eligibility process, and resulting in no cost shifts from commercial insurance.

Our state has a great opportunity to create a more effective healthcare system that responds to patients with the most complex needs and provides timely access to care and needed supports. This will ultimately make our state a leader in patient care for individuals with rare diseases.

It is for the reasons above that we urge this committee's support of SF 1175.

Sincerely,

Sumukha Terakanmb, Public Policy Consultant

David Dively, Executive Director