

Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain
2025 East River Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55414

March 2, 2025

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Conference Committee,

I am a pediatric neuropsychologist and rare disease researcher writing in strong support of SF 1175 which expands presumptive disability eligibility for medical assistance, particularly for infants with a positive newborn screening or a compassionate care allowance determination.

For many children with neurodevelopmental and neurogenerative conditions that I work with, health outcomes can be dramatically advanced through early intervention. I have observed in my practice over the past two decades how providing developmental and health-related interventions without delay can preserve and support functioning to maximize quality of life, especially for patients with rare diseases identified by newborn screening. **For some of my patients, this early treatment can be the difference between thriving and lifelong disability.** By aligning presumptive eligibility with a positive newborn screening result or a compassionate care allowance determination, this bill ensures that infants with urgent medical needs receive immediate access to care, reducing barriers and preventing adverse health outcomes.

Providing early and efficient treatment not only supports vulnerable patients and saves lives, **it also reduces long-term health care costs.** Further, this bill also **reduces administrative burdens** on hospital systems and health care providers by streamlining eligibility determinations.

For these reasons, I urge your support for SF 1175. It is a common-sense policy that will improve care for some of Minnesota's most vulnerable children, increase efficiency of eligibility determination, and reduce long-term healthcare costs.

Sincerely,



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