



February 18, 2025

Senate Committee on Human Services

**SUBJECT: Comment on Governor's Proposed Budget - Disability Services**

Dear Chair Hoffman, Ranking Member Rasmussen, and Committee Members,

We are writing with great concern about the Governor's proposed budget which was introduced to the Human Services committee on Monday. We are grateful for the thoughtful comments of committee members as you consider this proposal.

We are deeply concerned about the caps on inflation, the caps on services, and the cuts (euphemistically referred to as "growth limits") on disability service budgets. Make no mistake, the costs of living for people with disabilities will increase, so no matter what we call them, this will result in less funding to pay for services.

We understand the need to live within our means, and we have no doubt that if a genuine effort were made to actually engage with the disability community, we could come up with some collaborative ideas about how to reduce spending. As advocates, we see plenty of funds spent on home modifications that cost much more than they should, we see families pushed towards expensive services that do not meet their needs because less expensive options are not available, and we see new processes introduced that appear to add layers of bureaucracy and cost rather than streamlining them.

These cuts will push people with disabilities away from home and community based services and towards congregate settings, which will cost the state much more in the long run.

We strongly encourage you to reject this budget and work collaboratively with the disability community to come up with solutions that uphold the lives and dignity of people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Multicultural Autism Action Network  
Fatima Molas  
Delia Samuel  
Rufo Jiru  
Maren Christenson Hofer