



February 19, 2025

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

**RE: Governor's Budget Proposal**

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 vast majority of RPAMN members are BIPOC-owned, culturally-specific service providers who might not otherwise be engaged in the policy development and legislative processes. We are writing you to express our support for bills being heard in this committee that pertain to various disability services.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Governor's budget recommendations. RPAMN is deeply concerned over the proposed cuts to residential services for people with disabilities. Specifically, we are concerned with the proposed elimination of customized living for people under age 55. Most of our members are currently licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) as assisted living providers and enrolled with the Department of Human Services (DHS) as customized living providers serving hundreds of individuals under age 55 on the CADI and BI disability waivers. Many of the people we serve are BIPOC Minnesotans who have sought out culturally specific service providers like RPAMN's members and the proposal in the Governor's budget would mean individuals newly seeking these services could no longer access them. This would restrict client choice and limit access to culturally specific services.

One of the things most concerning about the proposal is that DHS' own budget documents acknowledge the disproportionate impact on these individuals, but they offer no meaningful solution or method of minimizing the impact on BIPOC Minnesotans with disabilities. The materials simply note other service options for those individuals without acknowledging the ongoing programmatic issues going on with alternative services such as Integrated Community Supports (ICS) or Community First Services and Supports (CFSS). This is just another instance in a long line of proposals that would make it nearly impossible for our clients to continue to receive services from providers in their community.

Beyond the specific cuts to residential services, RPAMN has serious concerns over the broader cuts proposed to the Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS). With the costs of providing care amidst a workforce shortage, cutting rates will only exacerbate the problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Governor's budget. Please let us know if we can be of service to this committee as you work on the next state budget.

Sincerely,

Zahnia Harut, President  
Residential Providers Association of Minnesota