



February 26, 2025

The Honorable John A. Hoffman
Chair, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
2111 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jordan Rasmusson
Ranking Minority Member, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
2409 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center Letter Regarding SF 1810

Dear Chair Hoffman, Ranking Minority Member Rasmusson, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding SF 1810. We support this bill.

When people with disabilities who already receive services need to travel outside Minnesota for work, vacation, or post-secondary school, Minnesota's Home and Community-Based Waivers allow individuals to use direct care assistance service including personal care assistance services, extended home care nursing, and consumer-directed community supports. These services are needed for activities such as toileting, eating, and other care necessary to ensure the person's health and safety. Unfortunately, two important direct care services, individualized home supports without training and night supervision, are missing from the definition of "direct care assistance services" in the disability waiver plans. As a result, people who rely on these specific services have to forego travel or post-secondary educational opportunities. Other times, people need to find alternative care which is funded out of pocket or cobbled together with family and friends who may not be qualified, potentially leading to unsafe situations.

SF 1810 would correct this unnecessary oversight and allow Minnesotans with disabilities to use the direct care services they are authorized to receive when temporarily traveling out of state.

All Minnesotans deserve to be able to participate in the full range of employment, go to their post-secondary schools of choice, and travel. We urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on SF 1810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Purrington'.

Jennifer Purrington
Legal Director/Deputy Director
Minnesota Disability Law Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Smart'.

Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project

This document has been formatted for accessibility. Please call Ellen Smart at 612/746-3761 if you need this document in an alternative format.