



March 11, 2025

Senate Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate

Subject: Letter of Support for SF2215

Dear Chair Hoffman and Human Services Committee Members,

The Multicultural Autism Action Network is a non-profit organization which serves families of children with disabilities in multicultural communities. We are writing to express our support for SF2215, and would like to specifically address the section which requires proposed individual budgets to be based on “need and not location of services, including additional budget resources beyond the resources required to meet assessed need that may be necessary for the individual to live in the least restrictive environment.”

We believe that individuals with disabilities should be assessed for waiver budgets based on their level of need, not where they are served. To do otherwise is putting a finger on the scale in favor of congregate settings, which is in direct contradiction with Minnesota’s Least Restrictive Environment requirements and the Olmstead Plan. This is particularly important to the communities we serve in our multicultural communities, who often prefer to care for their loved ones at home. It also discriminates against people in rural communities, who may not have access to congregate settings even if that is their preference.

In our work we have supported families who have seen budgets drop from over \$250K in a residential setting down to less than \$35K when their child’s setting changed. Their hours dropped from 24/7 care to 4 hours per day when they moved from a residential to home setting. This is for the same person with the same level of need and same requirements for support – the only thing that changed was the setting. This is unfair to families doing their best to care for their loved ones in their home.

Sincerely,

Multicultural Autism Action Network

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Rufo Jiru
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