



March 22, 2025

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Minnesota Senate Office Building, Room 2111
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for MnCHOICES reassessment flexibility (SF 2598)

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

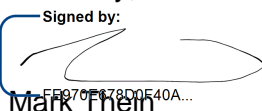
On behalf of Olmsted County, I write to respectfully urge your support for [SF 2598](#). Thank you for hearing the bill and for the opportunity to comment. We are also grateful to Senator Abeler for chief authoring the bill and to you as a co-author. The MnCHOICES assessment is Minnesota's tool for determining eligibility and service planning for individuals receiving long-term services and supports. Current regulations require reassessments at least annually, regardless of whether the individual's condition has changed or if they request a review.

This one-size-fits-all approach leads to redundant administrative work, delays in service delivery, and increased frustration among recipients and caregivers. Many individuals with stable conditions do not require annual assessments, yet counties must conduct them, diverting resources from those with more pressing needs. Individuals needing first-time assessments are often waiting for weeks or even months due to the federal mandate requiring county workers to complete these annual reassessments in a timely fashion. This has resulted in a huge backlog for county workers and the individuals that we serve. Counties believe something other than the annual MnCHOICES reassessment process could meet the current requirements.

Counties support the development of a shorter, less time-intensive process for MnCHOICES reassessments to review and determine if an individual's condition is stable and unchanged. If there is no change, and the individual agrees, the focus would be on a support plan and reauthorization of services for the next plan year. SF 2598 accomplishes this goal by allowing a more flexible reassessment schedule of at least once every three years, upon request, or when there is a significant change in the individual's condition. This change would allow for a more person-centered approach while ensuring that resources are focused on those most in need.

Olmsted County urges your support for SF 2598. This bill will make significant impacts to better serve our communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Mark Thien

3/22/2025 | 10:27 AM CDT

Chair, Olmsted County Board of Commissioners