



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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March 22, 2025

Senator Jim Abeler  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2207  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Abeler,

On behalf of the Washington County Board, I write to express our strong support for SF 2598, which advocates for critical reforms to the MnCHOICES system. These changes are necessary to address significant challenges that make the current system unsustainable for residents, workforce, and counties alike. We thank you for your leadership on this vital issue.

MnCHOICES was developed to enhance access to essential services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. While its objectives are commendable, the system has become increasingly difficult to operate and manage. For residents, the system creates barriers to timely and effective service delivery. For the workforce, it exacerbates recruitment and retention challenges due to operational inefficiencies. For counties and the state, it represents an unsustainable fiscal burden, with the state share projected to grow from \$98,379,322.44 in 2025 to an alarming \$137,982,088.95 by 2030.

As you are aware, counties like Washington are already grappling with heightened demands and resource constraints. The high administrative costs associated with MnCHOICES further strain local budgets and workforce capacity. Simplifying the system and allowing for flexibility to adapt to federal changes will enable counties to reallocate resources more effectively, improving outcomes for residents while reducing unnecessary costs. We believe SF 2598 represents an essential step toward creating a system that is efficient, adaptable, and sustainable. Administrative simplification and greater flexibility will allow beneficiaries to access services without undue delays, alleviate workforce pressures, and make better use of limited fiscal resources.

Families in Washington County and across Minnesota depend on us to deliver vital services and support. By addressing the flaws in the MnCHOICES system, we can continue to meet their needs effectively. Again, we thank you for your leadership. Washington County is in full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley J. Karwoski".

Stanley Karwoski, Chair  
Washington County Board of Commissioners

*We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and  
promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.*

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