

Dear Human Services committee,

My name is Julie Steinke I am a licensed 245D HCBS Family Residential services provider Julie Michels adult foster care in Mille Lacs County Minnesota. I have worked in corporate foster care, Memory care for people with Alzheimer's and our adult family foster care which is now called family residential services.

I came out from under my rock today to support all people with disabilities who use any services and all people who provide services for people with disabilities as we are all in this together and each service setting is unique and necessary.

I am in support of S.F. 2297 A bill for an act relating to Human Services delaying implementation of new rates for family residential services and life sharing services and establishing an advisory task force on family residential services requiring reports appropriating money amending laws 2023 chapter 61 article 1 sections 5,27, 30,32,47, 85.

I will add that on the tiered rate system will be ineligible for rate exceptions which will also force vulnerable adults out of their current chosen placement if they need additional care or staffing.

I serve one individual on a care waiver, this individual requires 24/7 day a week care with zero alone time, which is in their support plan and also has complex mental health diagnosis and numerous other disabilities plus dementia. If this does not pass I will be forced to close and the vulnerable adult that I've taken care of since 2013 will be forced into a more restrictive setting, something they did not choose. 2014 the disability Waiver rate system was implemented to comply with CMS standards along with 245 D the dwrs system is a transparent and fair system that allows an individual to move from one end of the state to another with no disruption in services and the rates stay the same no matter what kind of setting they choose to reside in which is I believe part of person centered services.

I understand that this is a very complicated system dealing with Family Residential Services, Adult foster care, Community Residential Services, the DWRS, MN choice 2.0, just to name a few.. I understand how things can get put into a bill without a true understanding of what outcomes may happen. And while I understand that the intent of the original bill was to do something good for people with disabilities, as the Human Services committee is always committed to doing. It's hard to get everything right all the time with all the moving parts.

This one is completely wrong and truly should be repealed

2023 Chapter 61-- s.f. No. 2934

Article 1, Sect. 46, subd. 14 Exceptions

(m) Rates determined under subd. 19 are ineligible for rate exceptions.

2023 Chapter 61, Article 1, section 47, subd. 19 Payments for Family Residential and life sharing services.

The above laws take away a person's choice of where they live based on living setting.

For example, you have a person who can walk, but then becomes wheelchair bound, and they need more cares and more staff.

Or you have someone with increased behaviors and you need more staff because they need more help.

I believe that all vulnerable adults should be able to choose where they live and what kind of care they receive.

Person Centered Planning

Informed Choice

Please don't leave us on the floor again.

For DHS

1. The commission received nine comments on the strategy for the tiered rate system 5 of the 9 opposed the strategy of the tiered rate system In the final report of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Health and Human Services. None of them being family residential services providers.
2. Who fact checks the legislative reports before they are sent out?
3. Throughout the reports I have seen again and again that it's a cost savings strategy
4. DWRS was created to come into so Minnesota would be in compliance with CMS. now you're proposing rates based on banded rates from 2014, why are we going backwards?
5. Waiver reimagine will never work. YOU CAN NOT BASE A PERSON'S RATE ON WHERE THEY LIVE INSTEAD OF THRE NEEDS.
6. Please help put these fires out and start listening with an open mind and heart. Many lives depend on it. You can't measure that!
7. Thank you for your time and allowing me to finally be heard! Thank you, Julie Steinke,

3/25/2025