

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 and our adult family foster care which is now called family residential services.

I am out from under my rock 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 begging for your support

The catastrophic ripple effects throughout the foster care system will start with Vulnerable adults losing their homes, loss of jobs for the people we employ and we, as foster care providers losing our jobs and homes. The ripple effects will continue astronomically in many ways, including the cost, none which can ever be measured.

I serve one individual on a cadi waiver, this individual requires 24/7 day a week care with zero alone time, which is in their support plan and has complex mental health diagnosis and numerous other disabilities plus dementia. The tiered rate system that starts for FRS 1/2026, will be force me to close and the vulnerable adult that I have taken care of since 2013 will be forced into a more restrictive and expensive setting, something they did not choose. In 2014 the disability Waiver rate system was implemented to comply with CMS standards along with 245D. 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, Waiver reimagine, 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 is 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This one is completely wrong and truly should be repealed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. With the tiered system, the person you serve is already at the top tier but is forced to move because there will be no exceptions for us to properly serve our people within the 245D standards.

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

1. Waiver reimagine will never work. YOU CAN NOT BASE A PERSON'S RATE ON WHERE THEY LIVE INSTEAD OF THEIR NEEDS.
2. Please help put these fires out and start listening with an open mind and heart. Many lives depend on it. You cannot measure that! We need all your helps to put this one out.
3. Thank you for your time and allowing me to finally be heard! Thank you, Julie Steinke

4/07/2025