



**5775 Wayzata Blvd Ste 700
St Louis Park, MN 55416**

Letter of Support Template for EDA Bill

March 21, 2025

To: Minnesota State Legislature

Senator Bobby Joe Champion (59, DFL)

President of the Senate

Jobs and Economic Development Committee Chair

95 University Avenue W. Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3401 St. Paul, MN 55155

I am writing on behalf of ThrivEdge Solutions, LLC to express our strong support for the proposed workforce development bill SF2554, which allocates \$170,000 in fiscal year 2026 to Equitable Development Action (EDA). This funding is critical to enhancing the training and support of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), who play a vital role in the well-being of residents requiring 24/7 care.

As a community-based organization committed to transforming the financial futures of individuals, families, and businesses by equipping them with the essential skills and insights needed to navigate the complexities of credit and other financial tools, we are deeply committed to initiatives that elevate the essential workforce in Minnesota. We recognize the increasing demand for well-trained DSPs and the essential role they play in stabilizing communities, improving resident care, and ensuring compliance with evolving regulations.

This bill will allow EDA to:

- **Implement training programs** covering best practices, safety protocols, and specialized modules tailored for residents with disabilities, mental health needs, and chronic illnesses.
- **Establish a support network for DSPs**, including mental health resources, peer support groups, and professional counseling services.

- **Provide continuing education and career development opportunities**, ensuring DSPs remain equipped with the latest industry knowledge.
- **Reduce the cost burden on the state** by training DSPs in de-escalation techniques, thereby decreasing emergency interventions and 911 calls.

The expected outcomes of this initiative include improved safety and quality of care, higher job satisfaction and retention for DSPs, enhanced compliance with regulations, and greater service delivery by minority-owned providers. These efforts will strengthen Minnesota's workforce and support historically underserved communities.

We strongly urge you to support this appropriation, as it is an investment in both workforce stability and community well-being. Please feel free to contact us should you need additional information or partnership opportunities.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Asamoah

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C.E.O.

ThrivEdge Solutions, LLC

hello@thrivedgesolutions.com

763-501-3843