



March 10, 2025

Dear Governor Walz,

I am writing in support of the plan to phase out subminimum wage that was included in SF 2149. People with disabilities deserve the same wage protections as anyone else. Unfortunately, it was removed from the Senate bill in 2024 because "there's no plan." In fact, we've had plans on this subject since the 1980's. A few years ago, a taskforce recently submitted over 180 pages of a plan.

Kaposia phased out our use of 14(c) certificates 15 years ago. Since that time, we have expanded our business and continue to receive record number of referrals. None of our customers are unhappy with being paid minimum wage or more.

In addition, we have provided technical assistance to many other providers around the state. Nearly 20 of them have either transitioned away from their 14(c) certificates or are in the process of doing so. None of them are at risk of closing their doors and no person served has lost their supports.

The opposition will tell you this is going to ruin people's lives. How exactly does living the American dream ruin someone's life? It doesn't. It's time for people with disabilities to have the same wage protections as everyone else.

Sincerely,

Jon Alexander

Chief Executive Officer