



March 9, 2025

Senate Labor Committee

RE: SF 2149 - ELIMINATION OF SUBMINIMUM WAGE

Dear Chair Ewan and Committee Members,

The Multicultural Autism Action Network is a non-profit organization that serves families of children with disabilities in multicultural communities. As parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, we strongly support the efforts to eliminate subminimum wage.

Our children and loved ones are told a hundred times a day how they are less worthy, less deserving, less included, less valuable to society, simply “less than” people without disabilities. The existence of subminimum wage reinforces that message. It is literally in the name “subminimum,” meaning, “deserving of the less than the minimum we as a society have decided is acceptable for everyone else.”

For too long we have been fed the narrative that a person’s worth is based on their financial output. For too long we have been fed a narrative that people with disabilities are little more than the sum of the services they receive. I would suggest that we need to imagine something different. We know for many that is a big shift, but subminimum wage is a practice that is antiquated and exploitative. It contributes to the cycle of poverty which traps so many in our disability community, and it must come to an end.

We strongly support this bill to end subminimum wage for people with disabilities.

With sincere thanks,

Multicultural Autism Action Network

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