



March 10, 2025

To: Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee

Re: Senate File 2149

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota chapter of the Association of People Supporting Employment First (MN APSE) to express strong support for SF 2149, which would phase out the payment of subminimum wages to people with disabilities. This bill represents a critical step toward ensuring fair wages and equal employment opportunities that align with Minnesota's values.

MN APSE, a chapter of the national organization that promotes the competitive, integrated employment of people with disabilities, has long supported the phase out of 14c Special Wage certificates. This outdated law is being used to exclude people with disabilities from finding work opportunities that match their skills and interests.

When people with disabilities are in the right job with the right supports, they can meet the same performance expectations as their peers. Ensuring equitable wages helps create meaningful employment where individuals can contribute and thrive.

Given the chance to earn more income and to be fully included in the competitive workforce, I cannot imagine that anybody would willingly choose to stay in sub-minimum wage employment, below the standard set for the rest of society.

Minnesota has the opportunity to create a more inclusive workforce. By phasing out the archaic practice of paying people with disabilities subminimum wages, we affirm that all workers deserve fair pay and meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

Brian C Begin
Co-President
MN APSE