

Written TESTIMONY OF Mary Hauff  
Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
Senate Labor Committee Hearing

Chair McEwen and committee members:

My name is Mary Hauff. I support the Senate File 2149 provisions to phase out subminimum wages. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

The bill provides the timeline to phase out subminimum wages. Resources for service providers and Minnesotans with disabilities to pursue employment at a competitive wage were established in legislation passed in the 2023 and 2024 sessions. Senate File 2149 does not eliminate center-based jobs or service providers.

The proposed legislation aligns with Minnesota's Employment First policy and the Olmstead Plan. All Minnesotans must have opportunities to make life choices about where they live, learn, work, and enjoy their lives in the most integrated settings alongside people without disabilities. Competitive integrated employment and earning a competitive wage are possible for Minnesotans with a disability who want to work. I have a 24-year-old daughter with an intellectual disability. Through her person-centered plan, she is making informed choices about her post-secondary education, where she lives, and her career. Her internships have been paid employment at a competitive wage. It is possible.

Minnesotans with intellectual and developmental disabilities should have the choice to pursue competitive integrated employment in their interest area and earn wages that help build their wealth. That is what Jean plans to do after she graduates in the spring of 2026.

Eighteen states have already passed legislation to phase out subminimum wages and the Federal government is considering similar legislation. It is a matter of time. I ask that you support the provisions in Senate File 2149 that phase out subminimum wages proactively.

Thank you.