

March 10, 2025

Re: Subminimum Wage Phase-out

Dear Chair McEwen and members of the Senate Labor Committee,

We are the Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee (SAAC) of The Arc Minnesota. We are an organization that advocates, not just for ourselves, but also the whole disability community of Minnesota. SAAC uses their experiences and skills as self-advocates to improve our communities. SAAC meetings provide a place for self-advocates to learn from one another and provide feedback to community partners and stakeholders. The committee promotes the human rights of all persons. All voices and ideas are welcome.

Thank you for supporting the elimination of 14(c) subminimum wage. Everyone has different abilities, but that does not mean anyone should be getting paid less than their peers based on those abilities. Living expenses are high, and outdated systems and policies make it hard for people with disabilities to have sustainable living arrangements. Wages need to match expenses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and listen to people with disabilities. Please reach out to us if you have any questions. We would love to discuss our work further.

Sincerely,

Katie McDermott

*Self-Advocate Associate, The Arc Minnesota*

Tina Rucci

*Public Policy Director, The Arc Minnesota*