

2018 Legislative Priorities



Support Enhanced Rate for High Needs PCA

Individuals with disabilities statewide—especially those with significant medical and support needs—are struggling to find consistent, high-quality Personal Care Attendants (PCAs), putting them at risk of isolation, hospitalization, and even death. Increasing wages by 10% for PCAs who support individuals 10 or more hours of support per day will help attract and retain qualified trained staff that people with significant needs must have in order to stay healthy at home.

Implementing an enhanced rate for trained PCAs working with individuals who need ten or more hours of support per day (H.F. 481, Kiel / S.F. 393, Relph) will help Minnesotans with disabilities secure high-quality staff and begin reducing turnover in the workforce.

Oppose Harmful Medical Assistance Work Reporting Requirements

Work reporting requirements as proposed in H.F. 3722 (Fenton) / S.F. 3611 (Johnson) could cause serious harm to Minnesotans with disabilities who access the program based on income through the Medicaid Expansion. Consistent Medical Assistance coverage is critical in ensuring that people with disabilities have access to the services and supports they need to actively participate in the workforce, in addition to addressing ongoing medical needs, mental health challenges, or periods of illness which can create challenges in finding and keeping consistent employment.

Putting the Medical Assistance of individuals with disabilities at risk through work reporting requirements would result in a downward spiral of health insurance and prescription drug-coverage losses, rising out of pocket medical costs, and reduced economic security – not to mention more emergency room visits, hospitalizations, increased uncompensated care, and higher health costs for the individual, counties, and the state.

Stop the 7% Cut to Home & Community Based Services

In February 2018, the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid informed Minnesota's Department of Human Services that previously approved investments in the Disability Waiver Rate System would be denied, resulting in a cut of 7% to the rates for community based disability services. The Best Life Alliance legislation (S.F. 2889, Utke / H.F. 3191, Schomacker) will stop this cut and target investments in the workforce

Stopping this 7% cut is critical to ensure stability in the Home & Community Based Service system that helps people with disabilities live and work in settings of their choice, and to invest in the Direct Support Professional workforce across Minnesota.

For more information, contact Public Policy Director Alicia Munson at aliciamunson@arcminnesota.org