

Building a Competitive Workforce to Support People with Disabilities



The Best Life Alliance 2019 Legislative Proposal ends a destabilizing cut to community-based disability services rates due to Federal action. The bill takes steps to address the severe workforce shortage impacting the critical supports accessed by over 30,000 Minnesotans with disabilities to live and work in their communities.

32,000 Minnesotans with disabilities rely on community-based services to live their best lives – **95% of which are paid for by Medical Assistance**. Payment rates for these services are set by the state, and directly effect staff wages.

Communications between the federal and state government in February 2018 resulted in a cut to the reimbursement for community-based disability services by 7%, greatly destabilizing an already unstable system. **This was not a legislated action, and state law still allocates this funding as legislators intended, to Minnesotans with disabilities.**

Legislation addressing this critical issue of preserving access to community-based disability services is **unfinished business and should be moved immediately – it received broad bi-partisan, bicameral support during the 2018 legislative session** and was included in the final Omnibus Supplemental Spending bill that eventually vetoed by Governor Dayton.

Not addressing this cut sends Minnesota in the wrong direction, threatening the services and supports Minnesotans with disabilities need in order to be as independent as possible in their communities.

Minnesota must show we value disability services and the workers who provide these supports. Passing the Best Life Alliance legislation will enact much needed reforms to the rate setting system for these critical services.

SF 06

HF 179

- Implements a **Competitive Workforce Factor** to address a 17% wage disparity between disability services wages and wages of occupations competing for the same workers.
- Adjusts the timing of the scheduled rate adjustments to every two years to better keep pace with actual economic conditions.

Pass Best Life Alliance legislation to move Minnesota towards a more stable rate system for disability services.

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