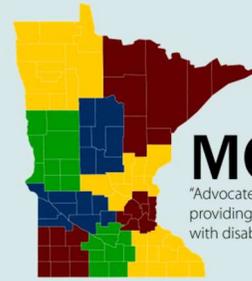


MOHR ACTION ALERT



MOHR

"Advocate and support members in providing meaningful services to persons with disabilities and communities served"



MOHR Members,

Action Needed

Thank you to everyone who has worked in recent weeks to inform your legislators about the critical need to address barriers in access to disability services this session. There is now less than a week to go in the legislative session, and we need one more push to ensure legislators have this issue front of mind as they enter into the final days of negotiations.

The Background

We have entered into the final days of the 2022 Minnesota Legislative Session, and legislators have only a few days remaining to try to come to an agreement on the Health and Human Services (HHS) Omnibus bill. Late Sunday evening, news broke that a compromise agreement has been found between Governor Walz and House and Senate leadership regarding dollar amounts available for spending, tax cuts, and state budget reserves. With these broad budget parameters now outlined, it is up to each Conference Committee to find a compromise agreement on the details of which specific budget items will be funded. In these final days of negotiations, the HHS Conference Committee members need to hear one more time from their constituents and other legislators about the need for long-term funding for disability waiver services to address the current lack of service access. As a reminder, the

Legislator Contact Info?
Lookup State Senator and State Representative information [here](#)

Questions?
Please email MOHR leadership or Government Relations contacts.

Conference Committee House members include Representatives Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester), Jennifer Schultz (DFL-Duluth), Aisha Gomez (DFL-Minneapolis), Dave Pinto (DFL-St. Paul), and Tony Albright (GOP-Prior Lake). The Conference Committee Senate members include Senators Jim Abeler (GOP-Anoka), Paul Utke (GOP-Park Rapids), Mark Koran (GOP-North Branch), Michelle Benson (GOP-Ham Lake), and John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin).

Here's How You Can Help Now:

Please reach out to your MN House member and your MN Senate member, stressing one more time your personalized message about the importance of investing in waiver-funded disability services to address current service access barriers for Minnesotans with disabilities. Below you will find points to consider personalizing and sharing in your message.

- If needed, remind your legislator you are a constituent or provider of disability services in their district.
- Acknowledge **that you are reaching out one more time in the final days of session to ask your legislator** to contact the HHS Omnibus bill Conferees to advocate for investments in the wages and benefits of Direct Support Professionals working in waiver-funded disability services. If your own legislator is on the above list of the Conference Committee members, you can ask them to advocate for this directly through their work on the Conference Committee.
 - As a reminder, the House has not included long-term investments in waiver-funded disability services in the House HHS Omnibus bill yet this session, so in your note to your **MN House member** ask them to please advocate to include those investments in the final House/Senate compromise HHS Omnibus bill.
 - The Senate has included long-term investments in waiver-funded disability services in the Senate HHS omnibus bill this session, so in your note to your **MN Senator please thank them for those investments and ask that they advocate to keep those investments** in the final House/Senate compromise HHS Omnibus bill.
- Briefly remind your legislators one more time of the reasons why investments in waiver-funded disability services are needed this session, and why you have continued to reach out to them on the topic.
 - Past investments in the rates for waiver-funded disability services have been greatly appreciated, however, because those adjustments are based on outdated data, the reality is that the current state set rates are not allowing for staff wages and benefits that are competitive.
 - The resulting extreme staffing shortage means people with disabilities in our district are facing more and more barriers in access to waiver-funded disability services. This is having a profound impact on their mental health and well-being.
 - Until the legislature addresses the outdated data used for the scheduled adjustments to waiver-funded disability service rates, the wages for waiver-funded disability services staff will remain well behind the labor market rate for similar jobs. As a result, individuals with disabilities will continue to face a rapidly shrinking menu of options for the supports they seek.
 - Share your organizational numbers for staff shortages and waiting lists for services.
- Close by acknowledging that legislators are being asked to address several critical HHS needs this session, and that you are asking your legislator to advocate in these final days of session for a compromise HHS Omnibus bill that includes needed investments in waiver-funded disability services.