



March 31, 2023

Re: SF2934

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on SF2934. The Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) is made up of over 4,000 health and human service professionals statewide. Our members cover the health and human service spectrum—mental health providers, social workers, case managers, etc.—and are employed by for-profit and nonprofit entities, as well as state and local government agencies.

While we are grateful for numerous provisions included in SF2934 aimed at improving human services in Minnesota, such as investments in non-emergency medical transportation, income and spenddown Limit modification, and Home and Community Based provider waiver rate increases, we are disappointed to see that provisions to ensure human services provider safety were not included.

We urge the committee to consider the addition of human services workplace safety grants, as outlined in SF1489, in your final omnibus bill. Provisions in SF1489 would help address a critical component of HHS provider burnout and the workforce shortage by providing human services agencies with the resources they need to ensure the safety of their employees.

We are disheartened to see that while currently missing from the Senate Human services omnibus bill, grant dollars to ensure safety in health care and hospital settings have been included in the Senate Health and Human Services omnibus bill. This sends a clear message to human services providers that while we value safety of employees in other professions such as health care, their safety, in professions where safety incidents are ubiquitous, is not valued.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. Please reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns at [msancartier@mnssa.org](mailto:msancartier@mnssa.org).

Sincerely,

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Minnesota Social Service Association

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