

# Building a Competitive Workforce to Support People with Disabilities



The Best Life Alliance is working to pass legislation in 2019 that 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.

Our community-based disability services system is built on the work of Direct Support Professionals who provide critical supports to individuals with disabilities day in and day out, supporting them to live, learn, and work as independently as possible. Our state is in the midst of a disability services Direct Support Professional workforce shortage that is now at a crisis level.

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 legislature, and it is these rates that directly effect staff wages which in turn directly effects the workforce shortage.

**Not addressing this workforce shortage 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 legislation this session that establishes a Competitive Workforce Factor and adjusts the timing of scheduled rate adjustments will enact much needed reforms to the rate setting system for these critical services.**

## The House, Senate, Governor and Best Life Alliance have all put forward legislative proposals that:

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

**Please prioritize passing legislation this session moving Minnesota towards a more stable rate system for disability services that supports Minnesotans accessing and providing disability services to live their Best Lives.**

## MY CONTACT INFO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street, City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ABOUT ME

What services do you provide? Or what services do you/your family member receive?

Why are these supports important? What do they mean to you?

When new support staff come and go, it impacts me/my family/my organization in the following ways:

Why I support the Best Life Alliance: