



Action Alert #1
Friday, March 17th

Invest Budget Surplus in People with Disabilities

Action Needed:

Contact the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House leader listed below. Please give them the following message this week:

"Support a health and human services (HHS) budget target that includes funding for supports to help people with disabilities live independently and be part of their communities. Our budget surplus be invested in lower parental fees, higher direct care staff wages, new employment services, Medical Assistance reform, more opportunities for self-directed services, and independent housing."

Please contact the following legislative leaders:

*** Sen. Paul Gazelka, Majority Leader: 651-296-4875; E-mail: [Use Senator's e-mail form](#)*

*** Sen. Julie Rosen, Senate Finance Committee Chair: 651-296-5713;
sen.julie.rosen@senate.mn*

*** Sen. Roger Chamberlain, Senate Tax Committee Chair: 651-296-1253;
sen.roger.chamberlain@senate.mn*

*** Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House: 651-296-5364;
rep.kurt.daudt@house.mn*

*** Representative Jim Knoblach, House Ways and Means Committee Chair: 651-296-6612; rep.jim.knoblach@house.mn*

*** Representative Greg Davids, House Tax Committee Chair: 651-296-9278;
rep.greg.davids@house.mn*

- *Background:*

Your advocacy has helped move [MOHR's Legislative PRIORITIES](#) through several House and Senate committees. These include bills that deal with:

- New Employment Services - SF 1055/HF 1239
- Increased Wages for Direct Care Professionals (Best Life Alliance bill) - SF 669/HF 873
- DWRS -Disability Waiver Rate System - SF 727/HF 814

The next step is ensuring these measures are included in the budget targets that House and Senate leadership set for different areas of the state budget, including health and human services. If these measures are not included, they will be very difficult to pass during the remainder of this legislative session.

The state currently has a \$1.65 billion surplus. State legislators and Gov. Dayton passed legislation earlier this session to provide relief to Minnesotans who were faced with high insurance premiums through the state's health insurance exchange, or MNsure. Funding for this measure came from the state budget surplus. There is plenty of the budget surplus left to invest in our legislative priorities this year. Contact the legislative leadership listed above this week. Ask them to invest our budget surplus in people with disabilities. Contact [Lynne Megan @ Imegan@tse-inc.org](mailto:Imegan@tse-inc.org) to let us know you made the contacts, and tell us what response you received. Thanks for your advocacy!