

RESOLUTION
of the
MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Resolution Advising Minneapolis City Council and Mayor to Support Best Life Alliance Campaign For Home and Community Based Service Funding Increase In 2017 Legislative Session

WHEREAS, Home and Community-Based Services provide people with disabilities an opportunity to be more independent in the community, build strong relationships, and help them develop strong job skills in order to secure employment; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the U.S. Supreme Court declared in its *Olmstead v L.C.* decision that unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions is a form of discrimination, and

WHEREAS, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires states to provide service and supports to people with disabilities in the “the most integrated setting appropriate”, and

WHEREAS, Community Living is a more cost-effective way to serve people in the community than more traditional institutional settings; and

WHEREAS, Best Life Alliance supporters are leading reforms that promote choice, independence, and individualized options for people with disabilities, including Minnesota’s *Olmstead Plan*; and

WHEREAS, Direct care staff perform many highly-skilled complicated and critical roles that may include medication management, help with essential personal care, skills coaching, monitoring high medical needs, and understanding technologies and special equipment people use daily; and

WHEREAS, Retaining consistent, trusted staff is crucial to community integration for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, A decade of deep cuts and stagnation in funding has hindered the ability to adequately compensate direct care staff and caregivers, leading to high staff turnover, and in some cases, people with disabilities being placed in more restrictive settings than necessary, and

WHEREAS, between 2006 and 2015 provider rates that pay for caregivers wages increased only 10.5 percent while inflation rose 21 percent; and

WHEREAS, a rate increase would provide an opportunity to boost wages and benefits for those essential care workers and help to ensure a more stable and quality work force for services for people with disabilities, and

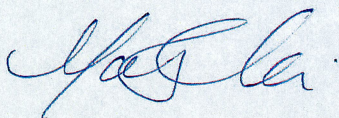
WHEREAS, The Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights is charged with the responsibility to advise the Mayor, City Council, and City agencies and departments with respect to Civil Rights matters, and

WHEREAS, Unnecessary segregation, vis a vis institutionalization, of people with disabilities who could otherwise be supported in community-based settings is a Civil Rights matter.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights advises the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor to publicly declare support for the Best Life Alliance’s 2017 legislative campaign for a rate increase for Home and Community Based Services to prevent further segregation of people with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolution from the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights supporting the Best Life Alliance shall be transmitted to the City Council, Mayor, Hennepin County Board, the State Legislature and the Governor and authorized for publication by the Best Life Alliance Campaign.

Passed July 25, 2016



Mariam Mokri
Chair, Commission on Civil Rights

