

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2023

Contact: Kevin Zabel Communications Director 612-227-1186 kzabel@arrm.org

## ARRM Calls on Legislators to Pass Caregivers Stabilization Act

EAGAN, MINN. – Earlier today, House and Senate leadership revealed their list of "Priorities to Move Minnesota Forward." Among the 12 priority areas were increased worker protections, including a call for increased wages to support workers and their families. With the workforce crisis in disability services largely being fueled by wages that have not kept up with the cost of living, ARRM issued the following statement:

"Minnesota's Disability Waiver Rate System funding model is not keeping up with the times and it is having a direct impact on providers, care workers, and individuals with disabilities. We look forward to working with legislators from both parties to address critical funding issues within disability services and appropriately valuing this work," said ARRM President Stacy Roe.

Earlier in the week, Senator John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin) and Representative Mohamud Noor (DFL-Minneapolis) introduced legislation in their respective chambers to inject critical funding into the Disability Waiver Rate System.

"The Caregivers Stabilization Act (SF7/HF32) sends an unmistakable message that our disability safety net is in trouble, and we must take immediate action to ensure people with disabilities have quality care and maintain their independence," said ARRM CEO Sue Schettle. "We urge the House and Senate to get this bill to Governor Walz's desk as soon as possible and provide much-needed relief to the caring professions," added Schettle.

Increased funding for the Disability Waiver Rate System is ARRM's top legislative priority in 2023. ARRM's full legislative agenda can be found <u>HERE</u>.

## ###

## **About ARRM (The Association of Residential Resources of Minnesota)**

ARRM is a nonprofit association of more than 200 provider organizations, businesses and advocates dedicated to leading the advancement of home and community-based services supporting people living with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives.

Founded in 1970, ARRM continues to lead advocacy and training for positive industry reforms that support Minnesotans with disabilities. To learn more, visit <u>arrm.org</u>, and follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.