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ATAM
AUTISM TREATMENT ASSOCIATION
OF MINNESOTA

 Residential Providers
Association of Minnesota

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Coalition of Disability Service Providers Statement on the Conclusion of the 2026 Legislative Session

Disability services should not be used as a backstop to fund other state priorities

EAGAN, Minn. — The 2026 legislative session ended late Sunday night with the passage of an additional \$300 million in cuts to disability services and human services programs, adding to the nearly \$1 billion in reductions enacted during the 2025 legislative session.

For disability service providers, people with disabilities, and families across Minnesota, this marks the continuation of a deeply troubling trend: balancing state budgets and funding other priorities on the backs of vulnerable Minnesotans and the providers who support them.

“These are not abstract budget numbers. These decisions impact real people, real families, and the stability of services that thousands of Minnesotans rely on every single day,” said Sue Schettle, CEO of ARRM. **“Disability services have now absorbed well over \$1.3 billion in cuts over the last two legislative sessions, despite growing workforce shortages, increasing service complexity, inflationary pressures, and rising needs across the state. There is something fundamentally wrong when disability services are repeatedly treated as the funding source for other state priorities.”**

Schettle added that many of the newly enacted service caps and billing restrictions fail to recognize the realities facing people with disabilities and the providers who support them.

“You can cap service hours on paper, but you cannot cap a person’s needs,” Schettle said. **“People with disabilities do not stop needing support because the state limits reimbursement. Those needs do not disappear. Instead, the pressure shifts onto families, direct support professionals, emergency rooms, hospitals, and already strained community systems.”**

While the coalition supports strong accountability measures and meaningful efforts to combat fraud within Minnesota’s human services programs, they also expressed concern about the

continued expansion of administrative requirements and enforcement mechanisms that may further destabilize legitimate providers already operating under significant financial strain.

Among the provisions included in the final package are expanded prepayment review requirements, new surety bond mandates, additional Electronic Visit Verification requirements, new service billing caps, and restructuring of several disability waiver services.

“Minnesota’s disability services system is at a breaking point,” Schettle said. “Providers across the state are struggling with workforce shortages, reimbursement rates that fail to keep pace with actual costs, increasing regulatory complexity, and mounting operational uncertainty. At some point, policymakers must decide whether they truly want these services to survive and whether they are willing to work collaboratively with the people delivering them every day.”

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About ARRM

The Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM) is a statewide association representing providers of community-based services that support people with disabilities to live, work, and participate fully in their communities. www.armm.org

About MOHR

MOHR is a nonprofit association of 100 providers working to advance employment and a wide array of learning and enrichment services for people with disabilities. www.mohrmn.org

About ATAM

ATAM’s goal is to make effective therapy accessible to all Minnesota families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. We will accomplish this by assuring a sustainable service delivery system that supports the high quality, research supported intervention that is required to improve the lives of people with autism and their caregivers. www.atamn.org

About RPAMN

Our mission is to serve as the unified voice for Minnesota’s small and mid-sized Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) providers. We inform, educate, and advocate for policy, economic stability, and the delivery of compassionate, high-quality services across the state. www.rpamn.org