



**Last legislative session, we were so close to getting our bills passed and stopping the cut. Our grassroots efforts like letters, op-eds, and meetings at the capitol meant that we had a lot of support in the legislature, and we still do!**

**Rise will once again be partnering with Best Life Alliance to advocate for legislation that restores the 7% funding cut and addresses the workforce shortage impacting support services across the state.**

### **Here's some information about our 2019 Legislative Efforts:**

#### **What is going on with the 7% cut?**

Last year, the Minnesota Department of Human Services received a notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid of a problem with Minnesota's rate setting policy for Minnesotans receiving home and community-based services. Because the omnibus bill was vetoed last session, this glitch was not fixed. This affected many people at Rise, but not all. This year, we once again have an opportunity to restore that funding by legislating changes to the Disability Waiver Rate System so that Minnesota's rules and federal rules governing Medicaid are aligned, and providers like Rise can implement service enhancements and wage increases for direct care staff.

#### **What else is in the Best Life Alliance Legislation?**

In addition to fixing the 7% cut, this year's bills change in how often rates are adjusted so that our staff's wages keep up with economic conditions. This change is designed to address the staffing shortages and high turnover rates that are affecting support services around the state. Currently, rates are adjusted every five years, this bill changes it to every two.

#### **How can I get involved?**

Rise is going to offer many of the same opportunities to get involved as we did last year. We will be having **two** family meetings instead of one to accommodate our new locations in Washington County, we will hold letter writing sessions at a number of locations with person's served and staff, and we will be participating in Disability Day at the Capitol!

There are also ways for you to get involved individually. Knowing who your legislators are and emailing, calling or writing letters has a huge impact! Also, submitting letters to the editor for your local newspaper can help get your entire community involved!

If you have questions about Rise's 2019 Legislative Efforts, please contact Rachel:

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