



Our grassroots efforts like letters, op-eds, and meetings at the capitol have given us a lot of support in the legislature as we push for improvements to disability supports.

Here's some information about our 2019 Legislative Efforts:

What is being debated about the Disability Waiver Rate System this session?

- A Competitive Workforce Factor to address a 17% wage disparity between disability services wages and wages of occupations competing for the same workers.
- More frequent rate adjustments so that our staff's wages keep up with economic conditions. Currently, rates are adjusted every five years, this bill changes it to every two.
- Both are designed to address the staffing shortages and high turnover rates that are affecting support services around the state.

Is the 17% wage disparity different than the 7% cut we advocated against last year?

- Last year's 7% cut legislation was due to a problem in the way Minnesota set rates for people receiving home and community based services.
- Right now, wages for direct care staff are 17% lower than other occupations competing for the same workers.
- Because the 7% cut to rates directly impacted staff wages, implementing the Competitive Workforce Factor would recapture some or all of the funding from last year's 7% cut, depending on the rate negotiated by legislators.

How can I get involved?

- 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.
- Resources for doing all of this can be found at rise.org/advocacy.
- Make sure you're on our email list and receiving our Legislative Updates. If you would like to join the mailing list, email smarks@rise.org to be added.

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