

May 5, 2015

 MnFAC Members:

\*\*TWO URGENT ITEMS FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION\*\*

Below is a legislative update that we would like to share with you.

Following the legislative update is a sample letter for you to send to the Governor, who is addressing these issues **now**.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Many DWRS changes are still alive and are contained in the Health and Human Services (HHS) Omnibus Bill that the Senate and House are finalizing in conference committee.

Negotiations are going on **RIGHT NOW** with the Governor concerning DWRS inside of the overall omnibus bill, **in fact even occurring this weekend, May 6-7.**The big news (which is consistent with what we knew already) is that the Governor is not interested in spending any more money on DWRS, so is opposed to some of the provisions listed.  **It is rumored that he is opposed to two critical issues:**

**The addition of the 7th year of banding -**The 7th year of banding is critical, to allow as much time as possible to continue fixing several other flaws in DWRS, including staffing ratios and healthcare workforce wage settings!

**The movement of the utilization factor. -**We are particularly concerned by his opposition to movement of the utilization factor - the original setting of 3.9% was an unreasonably low setting from day 1; moving it to 9.4% is a realistic number to raise it to.

We are asking all MnFAC members to  [Contact Governor Dayton](https://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/)  with the message below.  Please cut and paste (or modify it to make it your own) this letter to him.

send to Governor Dayton at:

<https://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form>

SAMPLE LETTER TO GOVERNOR DAYTON – see next page

Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol

75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

I am a parent of a child with a disability who attends a DTH and Residential program.  These programs **must have** the changes set forth in the HHS omnibus bill for DWRS.  These programs, and therefore my child’s very daily living experience, are in jeopardy.  Some DTH and residential programs will be forced to close, leaving our loved ones without a place to go during the day, and a place to sleep at night.  Some of the key attributes that need change within DWRS are:

·       Utilization changes for Day Services that will fix a very aggressive and unrealistic factor about typical absenteeism in Day programs,

·       Unit component corrections,

·       BLS/CPI period change from every five years to every two years,

·       Regional variance factor correction,

·       Addition of 7th year of banding,

·       An agreement to collect data and study Transportation to correct yet another very unrealistic setting.

The 7th year of banding is critical, to allow as much time as possible to continue fixing several other flaws in DWRS, including staffing ratios and healthcare workforce wage settings.  The utilization factor - the original setting of 3.9% was set at a dangerously low rate from the outset, and moving it to 9.4% is a rate that should be a minimum for consideration.

My family and I are asking you to approve the Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill as it is with the funding necessary for the DWRS changes.

Thank You

 Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Member of Minnesota Families and Advocate Coalition (MnFAC)