

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Coalition urges policymakers to fund services for people  
with disabilities and older adults with surplus dollars**

Members of the Best Life Alliance called on lawmakers today to use a portion of the budget surplus for a funding increase targeted at the workforce crisis and system reforms in community-based services that support people with disabilities and older adults.

The alliance, formerly known as The 5% Campaign, will champion a bill calling for a five percent rate increase next year with Sen. Kent Eken (DFL-Twin Valley) and Rep. Rod Hamilton (R-Mountain Lake) as chief authors.

“Finding and retaining caregivers is now a crisis across the state, jeopardizing the quality of life for 90,000 people with disabilities and older adults,” said Bruce Nelson, CEO of ARRM, a disability provider association.

Community-based services increase independence, promote health and safety, foster skill development, provide job coaching, meet medical needs, allow people to achieve their goals, work, volunteer, and more. The Best Life Alliance launched its new name on Tuesday at a news conference that included Sen. Eken and House Health and Human Service Finance Committee Chair Rep. Matt Dean (R-Dellwood).

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The Best Life Alliance is a non-partisan and state-wide coalition of more than 130 organizations, people with disabilities, older adults, families, and community supporters advocating for Home & Community-Based Services. These essential and customized services are in virtually every Minnesota neighborhood. They include employment programs, assisted living, companion services, group homes, crisis respite services, day programs, Personal Care Assistance (PCA), home delivered meals, and more. Learn more at [bit.ly/BestLifeMN](http://bit.ly/BestLifeMN).