

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Coalition Responds To Failure To Address Cut To Supportive Services For People With Disabilities**

St. Paul – May 23, 2018 – Today, the Best Life Alliance released the following statement from its chair Judy Marder, in response to Governor Dayton following up on his veto threat of the omnibus supplemental budget bill this morning:

“The legislative process has failed not just more than 32,000 Minnesotans with disabilities who will now face a seven percent cut to the funding they receive to access supportive services to live and work in their communities. It has also failed approximately 100,000 direct care staff and caregivers whose dedicated, life-changing work is already undervalued in the current rate structure.

“What should have been a no-brainer for legislative leaders and Governor Dayton – to quickly pass a fix to the regulatory policy glitch causing the cut and return tens of millions of dollars back to disability services – was allowed to get swept up in the political mudslide of this legislative session. Now, parents like me, people with disabilities who direct their own support services, and organizations which provide community-based supports, are left struggling to understand how to fill the gaping hole where this funding would have gone.

“I am aghast this would be allowed to happen in a state that once led the nation in its commitment to people with disabilities, their independence and quality of life. If the State of Minnesota expects to uphold its commitment to people with disabilities and supporting their best lives, not acting to stop the cut is not an option. The Best Life Alliance, its partners and the dozens of legislators from both parties who worked hard to develop legislation to stop the cut will be continuing the fight and calling for Governor Dayton and legislative leaders go to special session to address this critical issue.”

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*Best Life Alliance is a nonpartisan, statewide coalition of more than 130 organizations, people with disabilities, families and supporters advocating for Home & Community-Based Services. These essential services include training and employment programs, crisis respite services, group homes, Personal Care Assistance (PCA), and other services that allow people with disabilities to stay healthy, active, and independent.*

Webpage: [bit.ly/BestLifeMN](http://bit.ly/BestLifeMN)

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