



## Enhancing Quality of Life.

ONE PERSON, ONE FAMILY,  
ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

Establish sustained state resources to build a stronger foundation and network of supported decision-making practice.

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# Increase Access to Supported Decision-Making

HF2617 & SF2397

**Supported Decision-Making** assists an individual to understand the nature and consequences of potential personal and financial decisions. It enables the individual to make decisions with support of others and is a less restrictive alternative to guardianship and conservatorship.

## Background

During the 2020 legislative session, significant reforms and updates were made to: align statute with recommendations from the national Uniform Law Commission, reflect current guardianship practice in Minnesota, and promote autonomy and independence for people with disabilities and older adults. Supported Decision-Making became recognized as an alternative to guardianship.

Unfortunately, guardianship is still too often used as a default support without first demonstrating that less restrictive options have been exhausted. Additionally, Minnesota does not invest in Supported Decision-Making which creates barriers to access this service.

## 2023 Proposal

We request that Minnesota make its first significant state investment in programs and counties that promote and assist people in creating Supported Decision-Making services. This bill establishes a new grant program administered by DHS for organizations and counties to develop and enhance their supported decision-making services to persons with disabilities, older adults, and their support networks of family, friends and professionals.

## Why Invest in Supported Decision-Making?

- Supported Decision-Making respects the autonomy of the individual living with disabilities or cognitive impairment.
- It helps assure decision-making is intentionally supported while individuals build their confidence and competence in decision-making.
- Sustainable funding creates growth – both in the service and access to the service – and measurable impact.
- It facilitates a culture shift toward supported decision-making service options as a first, more person-centered choice.

