



## ATAM – The Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota

March 4, 2023

Support HF 1604/ SF 1765

Autism providers need immediate financial relief to ensure that children and families have timely access to early intervention for autism (EIDBI).

They suffered a sudden deep drop in their workforce during the great resignation of the winter of 2021-2022, which persists today.

This resulted in a total financial loss of \$20 million to the group of providers, which they now carry as a debt which is difficult to repair, because all of their funding is paid by a Fee-for-Service.

Due to historically low reimbursement rates, the margin for each billable service too slight to repair that debt, while also attempting to recruit and retain new employees.

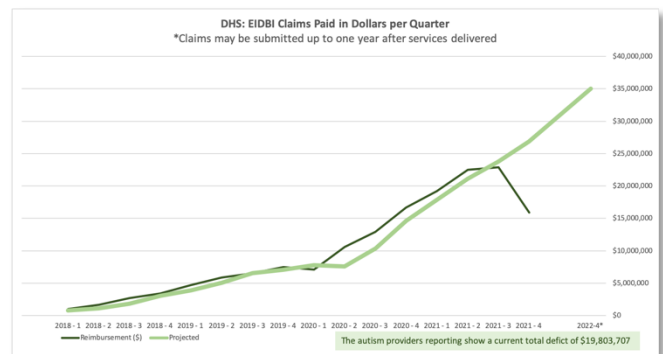
### What happened to the Medical Assistance Reimbursement?

Minnesota DHS was reimbursing providers for EIDBI autism treatment services at the rate of \$23 million per quarter as of August of 2021.

By December of 2021, the total reimbursement for services had dropped by 30% to \$16 million.

The autism providers are now reporting a current total deficit of \$19,803,707

Many are likely to close, under the weight of the resulting debt burden.



### The families suffer.

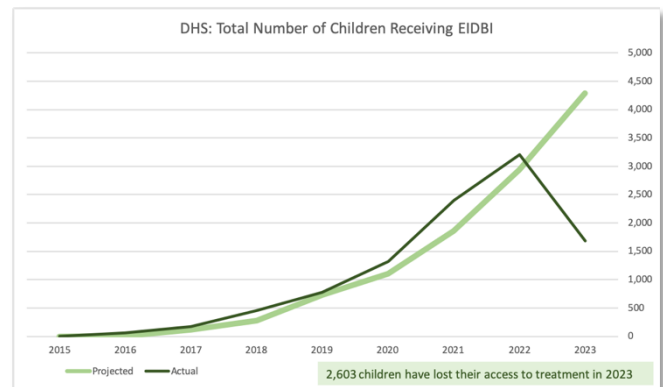
This hit our families hard.

2,603 children have lost access to EIDBI – a 60% drop in access to treatment.

These are families who are losing their chance for early intervention.

They have nowhere else to go for the treatment that their children need.

They are back on the waiting lists.



1,454 less new children are now initiating treatment – a 165% drop in new children beginning treatment.

EIDBI is Early Intensive Developmental Behavioral Intervention – A ground-breaking autism treatment program that was initiated by Governor Dayton in 2013.

EIDBI is designed to provide the mentoring and support that disadvantaged workers need to enter this workforce.

Yet the current Fee-For-Service reimbursement rates are inhibiting the providers' ability to meet that promise.

