

TESTIMONY OF Liz Hannon

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chair Tomassoni and Committee members:

My name is Liz Hannan.

I am here to ask for your support of the Inclusive Higher Education Act, SF 3972.

My son who is 21 and happens to have an intellectual disability, wants to go to college like his siblings and peers.

He wants to explore his interests and grow and develop.

HF 3972 would expand Inclusive college options in MN which would allow him to gain credentials for competitive integrated employment, live independently in his community and have the rich life that he deserves.

As we all know, college education provides much more than book knowledge.

Access to an inclusive post-secondary college is a great way to give all people a chance to develop job skills and to build their social networks.

People with intellectual disabilities deserve this opportunity in Minnesota so they don't have to leave the state, their family, community and networks of support.

Minnesota needs this Act in order to widen the pathway to college for students with an intellectual disability.

Offering more inclusive postsecondary higher education options would be a gamechanger for the future of our family and so many other families in Minnesota with children with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you for supporting SF 3972!