

March 29, 2023

Senate Capital Investment Committee

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR INCLUSIVE/ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND IN
APPLE VALLEY AND FRIDLEY (SF2830 & 1668)**

Dear Chair Pappas and Capital Investment Committee Members,

We are writing to you today as a coalition of organizations serving children with disabilities. We are pleased to provide a letter of support to the cities of Apple Valley and Fridley for their efforts to design and build inclusive and accessible playgrounds to support the needs of all families in their communities and the surrounding area.

Our organizations have seen firsthand how accessible playgrounds built with the best of intentions often fall short in meeting the needs of children with intellectual or developmental disabilities, where lack of fencing, proximity to roadways, and proximity to bodies of water can make what should be a fun place to relax a true hazard. We are grateful to the Cities of Apple Valley and Fridley for engaging with community members and organizations like ours to understand and meet the needs of children with all types of disabilities, and are appreciative of the partnership to make sure this work results in a playground that is truly accessible to all.

All children deserve access to a safe place to play. These proposals would provide funding to the cities which have worked in partnership with community stakeholders for pre-planning, design, and construction of playgrounds that are truly accessible and inclusive to all children, including those with all types of disabilities. We are honored to support these proposals and kindly ask for your full support as well.

Sincerely,
Allina Health
The Arc of Minnesota
Gillette Children's Hospital
Multicultural Autism Action Network

