



March 21, 2023

The Honorable Melissa H. Wiklund  
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
95 University Ave. W  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Paul J. Utke  
Ranking Minority Member, Health and Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
95 University Ave. W  
2403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Legal Aid Letter of Support for SF 2995**

Dear Chair Wiklund, Ranking Minority Member Utke, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project and the Minnesota Disability Law Center write in support of SF 2995--especially the section on improving the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities found in 144.0753, subdivisions 1 to 6. There are five proposed changes that would be especially helpful to our clients:

- Collection and application of new and existing aggregated data on persons with disabilities and development of a public disability data dashboard.
- Creation of a disability population health report, including a health surveillance plan and community needs assessment.
- Creation and distribution of targeted community health improvement grants that help establish inclusive evidence-based chronic disease prevention and services for people with disabilities.

- Disability justice-oriented inclusive health trainings for public health and healthcare professionals, community-based organizations, and others working with the disability community.
- Enrich relationships with the disability community through authentic engagement and creation of an external disability health advisory committee.

We believe that comprehensive public health planning is vital to achieving health equity for Minnesotans with disabilities. The resources allocated in this bill will help strengthen the capacity of both the Minnesota Department of Health and other supporting partners to improve the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities.

We urge passage of SF 2995. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Purrington  
Legal Director/Deputy Director  
Minnesota Disability Law Center



Ellen Smart  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project

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