

TESTIMONY OF Liz Hannan

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Chair Fateh and Committee members:

My name is Liz Hannan. I am here to ask for your support of the Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Act, SF 655

My son who is 22 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.

SF 655 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, a 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 to pursue postsecondary higher education.

Minnesota needs this Act in order to widen the pathway to college for students with intellectual disabilities. Offering more inclusive postsecondary higher education options would be a game changer for the future of our family and so many other families in Minnesota with children with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you for supporting SF 655.