

Dear MN State Senate Members,

I write in support of S.F. 5097. This bill protects the rights of parents with disabilities. It is important to me as a person who is blind that people who are blind and choose to parent children have their rights protected in both adoption and child protection. As an active member of the National Federation of the Blind, we advocate for the rights of parents who are blind. I see many parents successfully raise children while they happen to be blind. Shifting the burden of proof to the agency or court raising a parenting concern due to disability will protect the parent's right to raise their child. The bill also offers the parent an opportunity to receive supportive parenting services if determined necessary in order to gain the correct skills to be a parent if a concern over parenting ability due to disability exists. This bill is important to me as a person who is blind, having many friends who are blind and also parents. I want to see their rights protected in the state of Minnesota. Please support S.F. 5097 to protect the rights of parents with disabilities in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Matt Langland