



April 9, 2025

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107

RE: Senate Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill (S.F. 2669, A-6 Amendment)

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower Minnesotans impacted by epilepsy through support, connection, education, and advocacy. Founded in 1954, EFMN's vision is a Minnesota where no one faces epilepsy alone.

I am writing today to express our sincere gratitude and enthusiastic support for the inclusion of the epilepsy and related seizure disorders data collection and state coordination plan provision (Article 1, Section 51) from S.F. 1538 (Boldon), as amended. This will provide resources to the Minnesota Department of Health to collect data on epilepsy in our state.

As you heard from us during our testimony earlier this session, there are no dedicated resources within our state's public health agency to support people living with epilepsy or to understand its true impact on Minnesotans. Gathering this data would support EFMN in our own resource allocation and guide the Legislature in policy decisions to ensure needs are being met in the most effective and efficient manner to improve health outcomes for Minnesotans living with epilepsy.

We see our organization as a resource to the state as we support Minnesotans living with epilepsy, their families, and their communities. Our organization provides services such as Seizure Smart trainings in schools, childcare centers, workplaces, community groups, and to healthcare professionals, including first responders. We provide 1:1 support for all people affected by epilepsy, whether directly or tangentially. From diagnosis through treatment, we help people by providing epilepsy information regarding care, medication side effects, transportation resources, programs, and more.

Currently, the only information EFMN has about epilepsy in our state is that there are an estimated 55,000 Minnesotans living with epilepsy. We are a small but mighty nonprofit organization that seeks to support these individuals and their families. We firmly believe that partnering with the state to collect data on the number of diagnoses, clinical outcomes, mortality rates, and other related health data can support EFMN in targeting areas of need more effectively.

We are especially grateful for these state-funded resources following the cuts within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which eliminated the Epilepsy Program staff within the



Centers for Disease Control as well as other agencies that play a critical role in epilepsy research, medical device review, and public health initiatives.

Thank you for your dedication to improving the health of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenna Carter".

Jenna Carter, Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota