

Minnesota Senate

Health & Human Services Committee

Chair: Sen. Wiklund

4.9.25

Re: SF 2669 Autism Language

Dear Madam Chair and Members, my name is Idil Abdull, I am a Somali Autism Mom & retired advocate. I want to share my concerns regarding the autism language in health and human services omnibus bill.

As you may have heard a lot this year about EIDBI this EIDBI that, yet you have not seen any EIDBI agencies hardly testify or speak about this. Additionally, the chair of the human services committee told us EIDBI was under this committee. We came to see you Madam Chair and you said it was in the other committee.

At any rate, regardless of which committee EIDBI is under, the senate must hear from both autism families and EIDBI agencies who agree **AND** disagree with the legislators.

I ask that **DHS is not given** full authority and there is an objective administrative appeal process. Please also know there is a chronic shortage of staff that must be taken into consideration when demanding and requiring oversight in EIDBI.

I suggest the committee looks at maybe not this year, but hopefully next year if there is a way to increase EIDBI therapists. Finally, not addressing the autism tsunami that is coming to Minnesota will be astronomical financially and emotionally where the numbers are one of the highest in the nation, particularly for Somali children born in Minnesota which is 1 in 16. Everyone should worry about that.

As usual, thanks for your time and the opportunity to allow people to testify even in disagreement.

Sincerely,

Idil Abdull – Somali Autism Mom & retired advocate