



February 25, 2025

Senate Human Services Committee

**SUBJECT: SF683**

Dear Chair Hoffman and Human Services Committee,

We are writing to express concern about SF 683 which would create a Legislative Commission on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

We are concerned that under Sections 2-4 of the bill, DHS would be required to grant exceptions to the moratorium on new group homes and ICF/DD facilities if the commission determines we should have these facilities. This could lead to an increase in segregated settings which is the opposite direction of where Minnesota should be headed with disability services.

Second, we are concerned that Section 5 and 6 requires that DHS and DEED must receive permission from the commission, a body with no representation by people with disabilities, before it can reduce admission or change policies to DT&H and prevocational rehabilitation providers. People with disabilities should be given **more** agency and control over their lives. It does not make any sense to us to create a new authority where people with disabilities have no representation. This is not the right direction.

Finally, at a time when funding for people with disabilities is being cut, and the thin thread by which so many people with disabilities are barely hanging on, it does not make any sense to us to spend resources on commissions and further bureaucracy.

We have no doubt the authors of the bill had good intentions, but this bill is a step in the wrong direction. We strongly urge you to vote against it.

Sincerely,

Multicultural Autism Action Network  
Fatima Molas  
Rufu Jiru  
Delia Samuel  
Maren Christenson Hofer