



March 31, 2025

The Honorable John A. Hoffman
Chair, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
2111 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jordan Rasmusson
Ranking Minority Member, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
2409 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Legal Aid/Minnesota Disability Law Center Letter of Support for SF 3040

Dear Chair Hoffman, Ranking Minority Member Rasmusson, and Members of the Committee:

Legal Aid and the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and support for SF 3040.

We are so pleased to see a bill that addresses drowning prevention for Minnesotans with disabilities, especially after the deaths of Waey Mohamed and Mohamed Mohamed last year. For children with autism, the risk of drowning is 160 times that of the general pediatric population, according to a 2017 study from Columbia University.

Grants for swimming lessons and the inclusion of swimming lessons as a service covered by disability waivers is a huge step in improving the safety of Minnesotans with disabilities. We hope you will support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding SF 3040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Purrington'.

Jennifer Purrington
Legal Director/Deputy Director
Minnesota Disability Law Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Smart'.

Ellen Smart
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project

This document has been formatted for accessibility. Please call Ellen Smart at 612/746-3761 if you need this document in an alternative format.