

Maangaar Voices

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David Zak
Committee Administrator
Senate Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Hoffman, Vice Chair Fateh, and members of the Human Services Committee,

On behalf of Maangaar Voices, a Minnesota-based organization dedicated to advancing equity for immigrant and refugee families impacted by autism and related disabilities, I write to express our wholehearted endorsement of SF3040. This vital legislation modifies the Family Support Grant Program (Minn. Stat. § 252.32), Consumer Support Grant Program (Minn. Stat. § 256.476), and Community First Services and Supports (CFSS, Minn. Stat. § 256B.85) to explicitly include adaptive and one-on-one swimming lessons as a covered service for individuals whose disabilities put them at higher risk of drowning.

This bill represents a critical step forward in safeguarding Minnesota's most vulnerable residents, particularly those from marginalized communities who face systemic barriers to accessing essential disability services. As an organization rooted in the lived experiences of immigrant families, we see this legislation as a lifeline for those who have long been overlooked in policy discussions.

Our Ask

We urge you to:

- Advance SF3040 without delay
- Include community voices in guidance development

This isn't just policy - it's about making sure every Minnesota child, regardless of ability or background, can experience the simple joy and safety of being in water. The time to act is now, before another preventable tragedy occurs.

With hope and determination,

Maangaar Voices