

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Committee:

It is inevitable that when you reach an old age you will develop some form of a disability. Having and or living a disability is a natural part of the human experience and it is likely that a person will have a permanent disability or temporarily become disabled at some point in their life. This bill helps to protect Minnesotans across the state within their workplace and community.

In my community, 11.3% of the population has one disability. This is a high percentage and needs to be taken into account. This bill will impact people with disabilities and their families. I have a few co-workers with disabilities and care about them deeply. If bills like these are not put into effect, my co-workers and Minnesotans across the state are at risk of discrimination within their workplace.

My grandmother was in a TCU (transitional care unit) this year trying to gain her strength back after being in the hospital. She has many disabilities and has a very hard time moving. Because of lack of funding, the facility is short staffed and lacks necessary resources to be able to care for everyone at the TCU. Because of this, my grandmother was left sitting on a toilet for 20 minutes ringing her call light. There are not enough people or resources to provide people with disabilities the quality care they deserve. Cutting funding that this bill needs to protect disabled people in MN is vital and enormously important.

So, support this bill now and use your power, voice, vote and privilege to great use. We count on you to stand up for vulnerable communities in Minnesota and to protect the people of our state. Look at people with disabilities as individuals with value and not an inconvenience. Trump wants to make people with disabilities invisible and we are seeing this happen in action in the news every day. So please, take us and this bill seriously and support our bill today!

Ava Valentine