March 3, 2026

Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

**SUBJECT: Letter of support for SF 1101 for Coverage of AAC devices**

Dear Chair Klein and Committee Members,

The Multicultural Autism Action Network, a nonprofit serving families of children with disabilities in multicultural communities, writes in strong support of SF 1101.

Imagine not being able to say: *I'm hungry. I'm in pain. Yes. No. Stop.* For many children with complex communication needs who are non-speaking or minimally speaking, this is daily life. They understand. They think. They feel. But without the right tools, they cannot reliably express those needs.

Non-speaking does **not** mean non-communicating. With augmentative and assistive communication (AAC) devices, many people can learn to communicate clearly and effectively. These devices open the door to education, relationships, safety, and independence. But too many families hit an unnecessary and exhausting barrier: insurance denials.

SF 1101 simply requires insurance companies to cover AAC devices when they are deemed medically necessary — just as they already cover wheelchairs for mobility impairments or prosthetics for those who need them. Communication is not optional. It is foundational to health, safety, and human dignity.

No child should be left without a voice because of an insurance loophole.

We urge you to support SF 1101 and ensure that children who need AAC devices can access them without delay.

Sincerely,
Multicultural Autism Action Network

Fatima Molas
Delia Samuel
Rufo Jiru
Maren Christenson Hofer