

# Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota



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March 10, 2015

Representative Tara Mack, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services Reform  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Mack and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of HF 439, the Prenatal Trisomy Diagnosis Awareness Act, an Act that would require medical professionals to provide current, up to date information about Trisomy conditions to their patients if testing indicates that such a condition exists. As outlined in HF 439, that information would include but not be limited to expected development (physical, developmental and educational), life expectancy, treatment options available for the syndrome and most importantly, contact information for nonprofit organizations that provide information and services for the Trisomy.

The Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota (DSAM) is a regional organization serving families in Minnesota since 1984. We have resources available for both expectant and new parents. We at DSAM continue to hear from families when they contact us that they were given either very dated or, most often, no information on Down syndrome at the time they received the results of their pre-natal tests. As a result, families must seek essential informational resources on their own during a time that is often fraught with fear and anxiety about the unknown.

HF 439 will provide support parents during this most critical time with helpful information. We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen Forney*

Kathleen Forney  
Executive Director