



Dear Members of the House Elections Subcommittee,

The Minnesota Council on Disability and coalition partners across Minnesota express their strong **support of HF1152**, a bill that will permit voters with disabilities to receive an accessible, electronic version of their absentee ballot.

Electronically transmitting ballots is not a new feature of the Minnesota elections system. In fact, this privilege is already afforded to study abroad students, missionaries, contract works abroad, and members of our military and their families.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that voters with disabilities must be afforded the same rights provided to those without disabilities. Yet, under Minnesota’s current laws, voters with a disability are the only group of absentee voters that must go to a polling location if they need assistance marking the ballot and wish to vote independently.

The ability to independently cast a ballot is a key function of our democracy and only works when everyone has the opportunity to participate. While Minnesota’s voter turnout rates are among the highest in the nation, a 2018 Rutgers University report, “Fact sheet: Disability and Voter Turnout in the 2018 Elections,” revealed that Minnesota has the nation’s highest voter turnout gap between voters with disabilities and those without disabilities at 19.5%.

It is in this spirit that the Minnesota Council on Disability and coalition partners **urge the passage of HF1152.**

Signed,

The Arc Minnesota

Autism Society of Minnesota- AuSM

Brain Injury Alliance

Community Involvement Programs

Fraser

MAMES

Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities

Minnesota Council on Disability

Minnesota First Provider’s Alliance

The Prof Alliance

