

Date: March 1, 2023

RE: Letter of Support for HF 1626/SF 1593


Dear Committee Members,

My son was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of 24 months. We got a diagnosis from Developmental Pediatrics, after being referred by a pediatrician. The diagnosis and paperwork was not enough for our insurance, so we were sent to a list of "CMDE" evaluators. After calling 12, yes 12, providers all who did not have availability OR were no longer seeing clients, we finally found a CMDE evaluator. Once we had that evaluation and referral for ABA Therapy, which will surely help my son before school placement, we discovered the lack of providers for THAT service, getting once again rerouted through lists of providers with no availability.

My son was on a waiting list at MAC for two years. We just started services. I know how much valuable time we lost and it makes me sad and angry. Now that he is in therapy, I have seen major improvements. At age four, he is finally saying 3 word sentences. He knows (and says) his name and calls me Dad. None of that would have happened without ABA Therapy and EIDBI.

I live in district 34 (Senate) 34B (House). Please do not deny other children (and parents) these successes. Support HF 1626/SF 1593 and get funding to these essential providers.

Sincerely,



Ang Thach

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55443

612-434-1300

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Dear Committee Members,

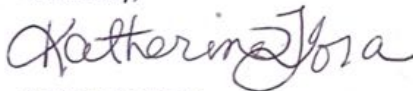
I live with my cousin and we have made a family unit that supports her son, who just turned five. As a single mother, I became her partner in child rearing and I have taken guardianship responsibilities on and loved her son like my own.

Our child was born at the beginning of COVID and, as a result, has had to wait for many services but no service has been as difficult to access as EIDBI and ABA Therapy. We waited two years for a CMDE evaluation and another two years for therapy – and now, our provider is telling us that he will “age out” of therapy at age five, so he is past the time he really should have received this support.

So you’re telling me that we waited this whole time, and because he continued to age, we missed the prime time to get this necessary therapy? This therapy that IS covered by insurance but is simply not available in the numbers we need to support the number of diagnosed children?

I am a proud constituent of district 43 (43B) and I hope you can support HF 1626/SF 1593. I may not be a parent, but I am a loving and caring guardian that would do anything for our AND other children. I hope you, too, see this important investment in their future as well as our own.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Flora". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Katherine Flora

600 Lilac Drive N

Golden Valley, MN 55422

Human Services Finance Subcommittee

RE: Letter of Support for HF 1626/SF 1593

Dear Committee Members,

Both my godchild and my nephew have Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a public health professional, I am very aware of the shortage of providers for EIDBI and therapy – and as a member of Equity and Diversity networks, I am even more aware of the resulting lack of access and affordability that is compounded for our diverse kids. Another obstacle is the source of insurance. The children with the most need qualify for Medicaid, however the Medicaid reimbursement rates are SO LOW (and have not changed in over a decade), so more and more providers are closing shop or limiting Medicaid clients.

We will NOT support these children if we keep going at this rate.

If we don't invest in emergency funding now, more and more children – especially children of color – will languish on waitlists. Please don't leave our children hanging.

I live in Senate District 65, House District 65B. I hope you can support HF 1626/SF 1593. As a professional AND a caregiver, I am asking if you would consider supporting this measure to increase the access and availability to therapy for children in our communities.

Sincerely,



Liliam Pinero

380 Randolph Avenue, #380

Saint Paul, MN 55102