

March 10, 2015

Dear members of the Minnesota Legislature,

I write in support of HF 439. This bill provides for the communication of crucial information from the Minnesota Department of Health and other resources to help families faced with a prenatal diagnosis of Trisomy 21, 13 or 18. I am a practicing physician who is board certified in OB/GYN and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. I am a member of the Minnesota Medical Association as well as a Fellow of the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology. As an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School I have taught for 26 years in a volunteer capacity. I am also a co-chair of the Program in Human Rights and Health in the School of Public Health.

I have practiced Obstetrics/Gynecology and Maternal- Fetal Medicine for 35 years. In my practice I must frequently communicate news to mothers and families relating to unexpected fetal abnormalities. The chromosomal abnormalities mentioned above are significant and require many decisions. Unfortunately, in my experience from hearing from patients who come to me for second opinions, many families are currently not provided accurate information on the medical facts, prognosis and community resources for individuals with Trisomy 21, 13 and 18. The lack of this information prevents many parents from making informed decisions that are in keeping with their values.

HF 439 and its companion Senate bill are designed to ensure that accurate information is provided to mothers and families in these situations. Some criticize this bill as an unwarranted intrusion in the physician patient relationship. I strongly disagree. In certain situations (such as childhood vaccination, newborn testing and timing of elective delivery) the state has already decided to play a very directive role. This is an analogous situation that warrants the simple requirement to provide accurate information to these mothers and families faced with unexpected chromosomal abnormalities. I urge passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Steve Calvin MD

Medical Director  
Minnesota Birth Center

# Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota



656 Transfer Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114  
(651) 603-0720 • (800) 511-3696  
[www.dsamn.org](http://www.dsamn.org)

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



The Arc Minnesota  
800 Transfer Road, Suite 7A  
Saint Paul, MN 55114-1414

T 651-523-0823 1-800-582-5256  
F 651-523-0829  
www.arcmn.org

*Achieve with us.*

March 23, 2015

Dear Members of the Minnesota House Health and Human Services Finance Committee,

The Arc Minnesota and its 12 affiliated chapters advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and support their full inclusion throughout their lifetimes. The Arc Minnesota has been carrying out this mission for more than 60 years. Part of that mission is connecting families to timely and crucial information about developmental disabilities and the resources available to them.

Families who receive a prenatal diagnosis that their unborn baby has Trisomy 13, 18, or 21 need accurate, current information about these conditions, the services available to support individuals and families, and the expectations and opportunities that are possible for their child. HF 439, the Prenatal Trisomy Diagnosis Awareness Act, will help ensure that families who receive a Trisomy diagnosis will be connected with information and resources at the exact time when they need it most.

We strongly support HF 439 and urge you to approve it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve D. Larson".

Steve Larson, Senior Policy Director  
The Arc Minnesota

SL/mg



March 23, 2015

Dear Chairman Dean and members of the Minnesota House Health and Human Services Finance Committee,

The Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network (DSDN) is a national organization that supports families with a prenatal and postnatal Down syndrome diagnosis. Our mission is that families be provided current information and support following a Down syndrome diagnosis for their child.

DSDN strongly supports HF 439, the Prenatal Trisomy Diagnosis Awareness Act. This act will ensure that families who receive a prenatal diagnosis for Trisomy 13, 18 and 21 are provided up-to-date, medically reviewed information about these genetic conditions as well as access to support. Join us in supporting this legislation and providing families information when they need it most.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

---

*Heather Bradley*

Heather Bradley  
President

PO BOX 140  
STILLWATER, MN 55082  
(612)460-0765  
[WWW.DSDIAGNOSISNETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.DSDIAGNOSISNETWORK.ORG)