



February 4, 2016

NF Upper Midwest  
1430 Concordia Avenue, #40241  
Saint Paul, MN 55107

To Whom It May Concern:

NF Upper Midwest supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Minnesota. We support the Minnesota Genetic Counselor Association's efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Minnesota as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. NF Upper Midwest's constituents rely on skilled genetic counselors to assist them with life-changing issues associated with neurofibromatosis. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is ever more important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Establishing licensure of genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Minnesota for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers. We wish to increase access to trained genetic counselors for families in need in the state of Minnesota.

Please consider championing legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aron Buchanan', is written in a cursive style.

Aron Buchanan, Board President  
NF Upper Midwest

[www.nfuppermidwest.org](http://www.nfuppermidwest.org) 651-204-0067  
1430 Concordia Avenue, 40241, St. Paul, MN 55104