



March 15, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

The Autism Society of Minnesota would like to extend our support for HF1080. In 1971, a group of passionate parents founded AuSM to seek greater understanding and better school supports for their children with autism. More than four decades later, AuSM continues its mission to improve the lives of people with autism, but with an expanded focus along the entire lifespan, from birth through retirement. In standing with our mission to improve lives of people with Autism- this includes supporting the end of healthcare disparities, including discrimination surrounding being a recipient of an organ transplant.

The autism community is a vast community, filled with diversity and deserves the same opportunity to be assessed for transplant qualification based on individual merits, rather than be dismissed because of a diagnosis. We believe this to be true for all people with disabilities. Access to equal opportunities in health care needs to be a fundamental part of inclusion in our community, because people with disabilities deserve a right to not just live in the community- but also to be able to live. Thank you for supporting this bill and helping close the gap of equality for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,
Jillian Nelson
Community Resource and Policy Advocate

2380 Wycliff St. Suite 102
Saint Paul, MN 55114
Jnelson@ausm.org
651-647-1083

Minnesota's First Autism Resource®

2380 Wycliff St. #102 • St. Paul, MN 55114

Telephone: 651.647.1083 • Fax: 651.642.1230 • Website: www.ausm.org • E-mail: info@ausm.org