

January 24, 2023

Chair Rep. Mohamud Noor
House Human Services Finance Committee

Re: House File 480

Dear House Human Services Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), and the Minnesota County IT Leadership Association (MNCITLA), we are writing to express our support for HF480 (Elkins), which would provide the Minnesota Council on Disability \$500,000 to develop a statewide training module to assist local governments in meeting website accessibility standards.

We would like to thank both Rep. Elkins for introducing this bill and the stakeholders from the disability community for including our local government organizations in discussion around the best approach for this bill.

The way cities and counties connect and serve our communities through digital resources is everchanging. Each year, local governments expand their online resources, and this grew exponentially during the pandemic. While this innovation has allowed greater access, we need to be sure that the increasing amount of digital content is accessible to all people in our communities.

We believe this bill is a good first step on the path to a robust state grant program. State grant funding for accessibility will be particularly helpful to smaller cities and counties with limited budgets, staff, and technological expertise. Without this training and eventual grant funding, implementation will be extremely difficult.

Our associations are currently engaged in education with our members on website accessibility standards. Our hope is that this bill will begin the process of allowing every county and city in Minnesota to make online resources accessible and functional for all their community members.

Sincerely,



Nathan Zacharias
Association of Minnesota Counties
MN County IT Leadership Association



Daniel Lightfoot
League of Minnesota Cities