



## AFRICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

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March 10, 2022

Representative Tina Liebling

Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee

Rep. Liebling and Members of Health Finance and Policy Committee:


We are writing in strong support of HF 4099. I am the Executive Director at African Community Services (ACS) and we are recipients of the Community Solutions Grant Program. Our program is the Somali Autism Project and is aimed at combatting the stigma in the Somali community that is directed towards children with autism spectrum disorder and their families.

ACS' work in this area has started to raise the visibility of this matter with leaders and key organizations in the Somali Community including the Islamic Association of North America, IANA. This interest is new as the attitude toward these children and their families is something that isn't generally acknowledged. This could not have been accomplished without a grant from the Community Solutions Fund.

ACS supports HF 4099 because it allows organizations to get the necessary financial support to develop and undertake innovative, community-driven strategies to address difficult community concerns.

We strongly encourage you to support HF 4099.

Sincerely,



Hassan Omar

Executive Director

African Community Services,

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