



February 22, 2022

House Housing Finance and Policy Committee

Re: Support for HF 2695

Chair Hausman and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express support for HF 2695 (Reyer; companion SF 2603, Duckworth) which works to address the critical lack of affordable, accessible, inclusive housing for people with disabilities in Minnesota. This legislation would ensure that projects utilizing housing infrastructure bonds include units that are truly accessible for all people with disabilities – including individuals with autism and other disabilities with sensory processing concerns.

For people with sensory accessibility needs, housing projects do not currently have sensory accessible features, this bill includes components of accessibility beyond physical access which is a long overdue innovation that will lead to greater equity in our work to become a truly accessible state. Currently there are no requirements for sensory friendly housing and the burden of accessibility falls to individuals and families who experience these challenges and makes the rental housing market incredibly frustrating and often limits the integration of these individuals in our communities.

Please support HF 2695 to ensure Minnesotans with accessibility needs can find affordable housing that is also truly accessible and inclusive in the model of accessibility.

Sincerely,

Jillian Nelson and Jean Bender

AuSM Advocacy Committee Co-chairs

**Minnesota's First Autism Resource®**

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