

March 28, 2023



Re: HF 2073, House Higher Education Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill

To: Members of the House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Pelowski and Committee Members,

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 1946, The Arc Minnesota is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with IDD, supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities. We are a chapter of The Arc of the United States, the largest national community-based organization advocating for people with IDD and their families.

I write today on behalf of The Arc Minnesota to thank you for the inclusion of the Inclusive Higher Education Act in the House Higher Education Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill (HF 2073). This proposal addresses a major barrier to postsecondary education for Minnesota students with intellectual disabilities. Thank you for your commitment to broadening access and supporting inclusion.

Expanding inclusive higher education is an essential part of building an inclusive Minnesota for people with intellectual disabilities. It will strengthen Minnesota's economy and workforce because people with intellectual disabilities who complete postsecondary education are more likely to be employed, earn a competitive wage, and live in homes of their own in their communities. Building a society where people with disabilities belong means expanding access to places and opportunities that have not always been accessible, including Minnesota's higher education system.

Thank you Representative Klevorn for championing this proposal and thank you to Representatives Hanson and Davids for your support. The Arc Minnesota is appreciative of your leadership and commitment to inclusive higher education. Thank you for making this a priority.

Sincerely,

Julia Page
Public Policy Director