

March 15, 2021

Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee
Minnesota House
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the Judiciary and Civil Law Committee:

On behalf of Proof Alliance, I am writing to share our strong support for House File 1080. We appreciate Representative Richardson's proposal to ensure that Minnesota residents in need of organ transplants do not encounter discrimination on the basis of their disability. We also want to thank you the bill's other co-authors for their support of this critical issue.

As many as 1 in 20 people in Minnesota are living with an FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorders). We know that most people with an FASD face huge challenges to secure the services and supports they need to live to their full potential. Because FASD is often misunderstood by education, social services and health care systems, individuals are often dealing with multiple barriers to access appropriate support. People with an FASD are particularly vulnerable in the health care system. This bill provides a mechanism to ensure that in the matter of organ transplant, all people living with a disability including those with an FASD can be certain to not be discriminated against in this process and that penalties will occur if that happens.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for House File 1080. Please contact me at 651-917-2370 or sara.messelt@proofalliance.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sara Messelt
Executive Director
Proof Alliance