

House Higher Education Committee
Wednesday, March 16

TESTIMONY OF Penny Kauffman – Mother of Kyle Kauffman, 21 year old with Down Syndrome. Hanover, Minnesota

Chair Bernardy and Committee members:

On behalf of my son and others with intellectual disabilities I'm writing to ask for your support of the inclusive higher education bill HF4210.

As a parent of a young adult that is just finishing his transition program through his high school I have seen first hand the very limited post secondary education options that exist for Kyle and others that have intellectual disabilities.

I feel that the post secondary conversation should be the same as it was for his two sisters that headed off to college after they graduated. In MN we have **4 options** for students like Kyle to choose from. Students with all levels of disability should have multiple options to choose from for their post secondary education. More options like these will help students with independent living, career development, self-advocacy, managing schedules etc. Skills that will be beneficial for them in obtaining meaningful employment in their future.

Thank-you for your consideration of HF4210.