



March 10, 2022

To: Members of the House Judiciary Finance and Policy Committee  
RE: House File 3972

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Committee Members,

We write in support of House File 3972, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on race or ethnicity in eligibility for organ transplants. Thank you to Representative Richardson and co-authors for your leadership on this important bill.

The Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) and the Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) are statewide projects of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid. MDLC serves as the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organization for Minnesota, and, along with every other state and territory, is the largest network of legally based advocacy services for people with disabilities in the United States. MDLC provides free legal services to children and adults with disabilities. LSAP is the advocacy arm of Legal Aid and has provided legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid's clients and all low-income Minnesotans since 1977.

This bill adds an important anti-discrimination provision to our human rights laws. Last year, the legislature passed protections for people with disabilities in organ transplants, for which we were very grateful. Those changes addressed a serious issue that some of our clients who have disabilities have faced: being denied access to life-saving organ transplants because of their disability. House File 3972 would add important protections, ensuring equity in organ transplant eligibility and clearly prohibiting discrimination based on race or ethnicity.

We believe this bill addresses an important issue and we are grateful to the advocates and legislators who are bringing it to the attention of the legislature. Thank you again to Representative Richardson for your leadership on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maren Hulden", is positioned above the typed name.

Maren Hulden  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Services Advocacy Project