February 24, 2017

Dear Chair Abeler:

Thank you for being a champion for individuals with autism and their families.

We are submitting this joint letter of support for the EIDBI policy bill, SF 562. We believe that passage this year is critical for multiple reasons:

- As you know, the legislature first passed the EIDBI benefit in 2013. The intent was to develop another option for delivering early intensive intervention to children with significant and complex needs. Implementation unfortunately was slowed by subsequent changes to federal rules. SF 562 will bring the EIDBI benefit into alignment and increase access for children and families.
- SF 562 incorporates a significant amount of input from the community. This year's bill was worked out prior to session, and we do not believe that it contains any controversial provisions.
- In addition, this bill also will continue families' access to other essential services, including CTSS mental health, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.

Because of all of these reasons, the stakeholders listed on this letter are in support of the bill.

Finally, we want to communicate our desire that SF 562 remains a single-subject bill. Although EIDBI is just one of several issues that are equally critical to individuals with autism and their families, we agree that this bill is exclusively focused on implementing EIDBI.

Thank you again for your leadership,

<u>Signers</u>
Arc of Minnesota (Steve Larson)
Autism Minnesota (Anna Theisen-Olson)
Autism Recovery Foundation (Randy Bachman and Dr. Sheryl Grassie)
Autism Society of Minnesota (Jonah Weinberg)
Autism Treatment Association of Minnesota (Jay O'Neill)
Behavioral Dimensions (Jay O'Neill)
The C.A.D.E. (Children with Autism Deserve Education) Foundation (Jennifer VanDerHorst-Larson)
Disability Law Center, Mid MN Legal Aid (Anne Henry)
Fraser (Lucas Kunach)
Holland Center (Jennifer VanDerHorst-Larson)
The Lazarus Project (Peggy Howell)
Lovaas Institute Midwest (Dr. Eric Larsson)
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (Randy Bachman)
Minnesota Northland Association for Behavior Analysis (Dr. Eric Larsson)
Partners in Excellence (Deb Thomas)
Rochester Center for Autism (Jon Sailer)
St. David's Center for Child & Family Development (Vanessa Slivken)