

February 27, 2020

Dear House State Government Finance Division Members,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and the Minnesota County IT Leadership Association (MNCITLA), we are writing to express our support for HF1358 (Elkins), which would provide \$200,000 in grant funding for improvements in local government website accessibility.

We would like to thank both Rep. Elkins for introducing this bill and the stakeholders from the disability community for including our groups in discussion around the best approach for this grant funding.

The way cities and counties connect and serve our communities through digital resources is everchanging. This innovation creates opportunities and challenges when ensuring that the increasing amount of content is accessible to all people in our communities.

We believe that this grant program will be particularly helpful to smaller cities and counties where there isn't the technology expertise on staff and there are limited budgets. This initial grant allocation helps bolster local efforts to address the accessibility of our digital resources.

Our associations are currently engaged in education with our members on website accessibility standards. Our hope is that this grant program will help every county and city in Minnesota provide websites that are accessible and functional for every member of their communities.

Thank you for your time, and we invite any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Leah Patton
Minnesota County IT Leadership Association
Association of Minnesota Counties
lpatton@mncounties.org



Irene Kao
League of Minnesota Cities
ikao@lmc.org