



October 13, 2020

To: Representative Rena Moran and Members of the House Select Committee on Racial Justice
Re: In support of House Select Committee on Racial Justice

Chair Moran and Members of the Committee,

We write on behalf of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD), a broad coalition of over 30 advocacy and provider organizations working to improve the lives of people with disabilities. We write to thank you for your work addressing the dire need for racial justice in Minnesota and to share our support of your work.

As the House acknowledged in H.R. 1, racism has pervasive and structural impacts on public health and human services in Minnesota. As a collection of disability organizations, we acknowledge that much disability advocacy work in Minnesota has not directly addressed this racism. We have not led with an intersectional approach. We are now working to address, in all our work, how the intersection of race and disability lead to structural disadvantages for disabled POC in Minnesota. We are committed to working toward a just, fair, equitable and inclusive society for all.

We are grateful for H.R. 1's acknowledgment that "racism is complex and it is imperative to employ an intersectional lens and approach that considers the unique ways that racism intersects with disabilities, immigration, gender, documentation status, and LGBTQ+ communities." We are working to build an intersectional lens and approach into our policy work and are eager to support you in these efforts however we can.

Thank you for your work and leadership. We are grateful that this House Select Committee exists and is taking on this essential work. We are ready to support you how we best can.

Respectfully,

Jesse Bethke Gomez & Jillian Nelson
MNCCD Anti-Discrimination & Intersectionality Committee Co-Chairs

Maren Hulden & Melissa Haley
MNCCD Policy Committee Co-Chairs